Tampa, Fla., Times
December 15, 1938

SARASOTA TRIAL OF 58 DELAYED

Habeas Corpus Contending Riot of CCC Negroes Wasn't Crime to Be Heard Today

Special to The Times

Sarasota, Dec. 15.—A writ of habeas corpus, signed by Judge W. T. Harrison, yesterday delayed the trial of 58 Negro CCC workers who were charged with disorderly conduct as a result of a riot at the Mykka State Park about a week ago.

At the time the writ was granted to Attorney J. Irving Walden, one of the Negroes had been freed and 13, represented by Walden, had been convicted. Walden, in his application for the writ, contended that the informations filed by Prosecuting Attorney Lamar B. Dozier did not constitute a crime under the statutes of the State of Florida.

Hearing Today.

Hearing on the writ is scheduled for this afternoon at 2:30, and in the event that Walden is successful in his action, all 58 of the informations will be affected.

Maj. Gen. Julian L. Schley, Chief of United States Army Engineers, is scheduled to arrive in Sarasota this afternoon, as part of his inspection tour of cities along the route of the proposed inland waterways canal.

Major General Schley will be accompanied by three members of his staff, and efforts will be made to bring before his attention the proposed yacht harbor project, which has been submitted to Wahsington for approval.

Discuss Housing Project.

Magnus Thompson, project adviser of the United States Housing Authority, Washington, D. C., yesterday conferred with Mayor Verman Kimbrough and Don B. Newburn, chairman of the local Housing Authority, discussing final details for filing a formal $200,000 slum clearance project for Sarasota.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
December 16, 1938

Negro CCC Boys Freed in State Park 'Strike' Case

SARASOTA, Dec. 15.—(Special.)—Thirteen negro CCC enrollees, convicted in county court here this week of being disorderly persons, were freed by Circuit Judge Harrison here today, but Prosecuting Attorney Lamar B. Dozier immediately filed new informations charging the 13 and 45 others with unlawful assembly.

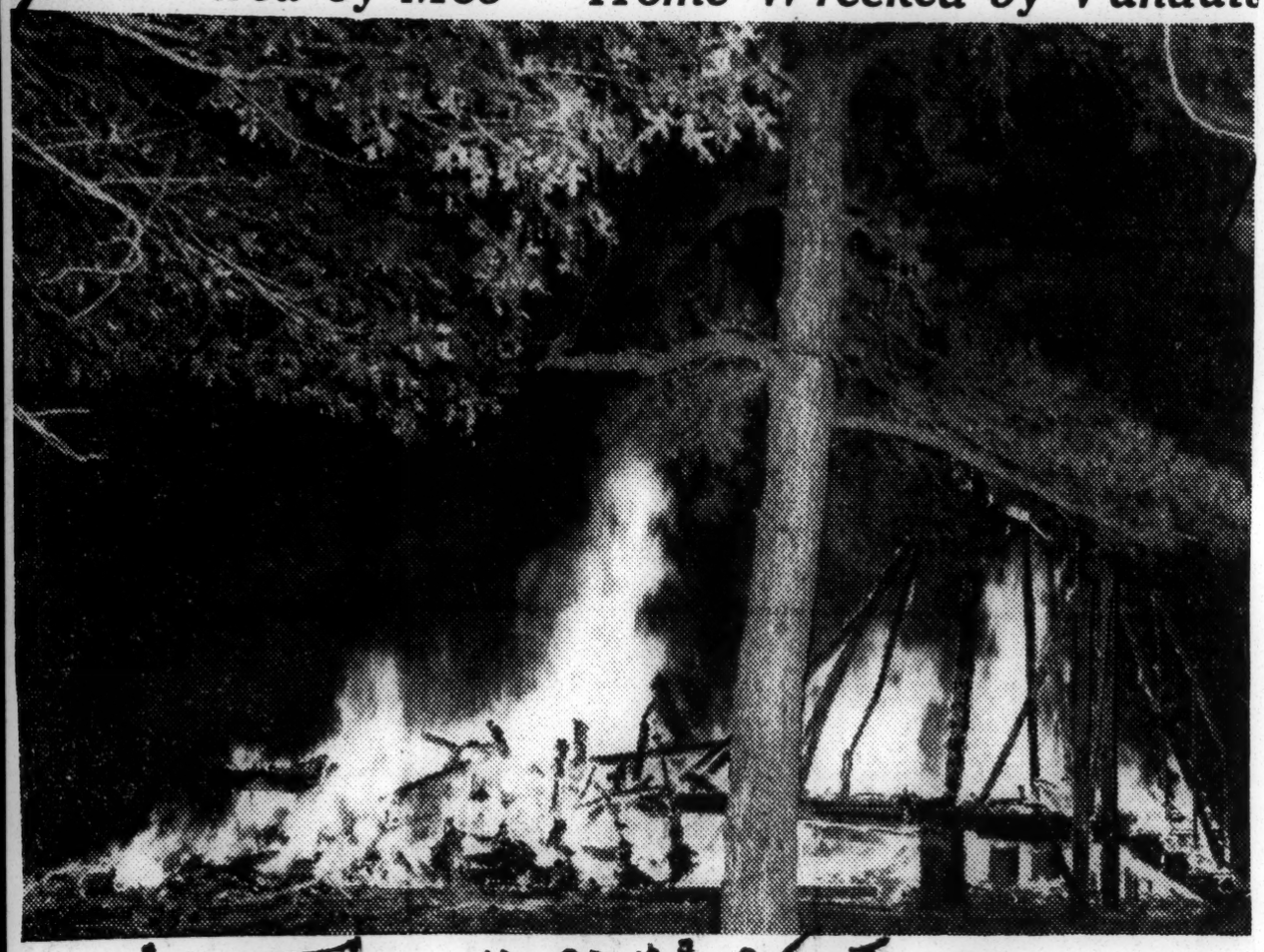
At the habeas corpus hearing Judge Harrison ruled that under Florida law there was no such offense as being a disorderly person.

The negroes were arrested following a "strike" at the Myakka river state park camp two weeks ago.

Riots - 1938

Georgia.

School Fired by Mob --- Home Wrecked by Vandals



Constitution Staff Photo—Slayton

Flames consuming Bethel elementary school for negroes near Smyrna, as shown shortly after it was set on fire by unidentified persons during the outbreak of Monday night.

PRISONERS HELD UNDER HEAVY BOND IN MARIETTA JAIL

More Seizures in Burning of School and Outbreaks in Smyrna Are Predicted by Investigating Bodies.

STATE PATROLMEN PRESERVE ORDER

Crowd of Several Hundred Dispersed Without an Incident Last Night.

Determined to break up demonstrations which have resulted in wanton destruction of property and assaults again innocent persons, Cobb county authorities moved swiftly and sternly last night to punish participants in the Smyrna outbreaks of Monday and Tuesday night.

While the sheriff's office disclosed that 14 men, ranging in age from 2 0to 25 years, had been lodged in the county jail at Marietta, a force of 50 state highway patrolmen, augmented by Cobb county deputy sheriffs and the Smyrna police department, peaceably—but energetically—dispersed several hundred persons who gathered in Smyrna between 7 and 9 o'clock, clamping down a virtual curfew.

Rewards Offered.

Indignant that outbreaks Monday and Tuesday "gave a wrong impression of the character of its citizens," county authorities and leading citizens offered cash rewards for the "conviction of those responsible for mob action which Monday night resulted in the burning of a negro schoolhouse."

As the state patrolmen, armed with revolvers and tear gas, remained on duty all night in Smyrna, law enforcement officers at Marietta stood ready for any possible onslaught aimed at the jail in which the 14 men were lodged.

Adjutant General Jack Stoddard and Major Phil Brewster, head of the state highway patrol, were personally in command of the state officers in Smyrna.

Judge's Appeal.

While law enforcement agencies were physically "set" for stubborn resistance against any expression of mob action, Judge J. H. Hawkins, of Cobb county superior court, again appealed for "law and order, and justice through the courts."

Those arrested yesterday were charged with malicious mischief and riot, a misdemeanor in this state, and were placed in jail under bonds of $2,500 each.

Warrants for the arrests were issued at the request of Chief of Police C. T. White, of Smyrna, with the approval of Judge Hawkins.

Deputy sheriffs were busy all day and early last night rounding up the prisoners and clapping them into jail. It was indicated that further arrests might be made, as investigation into burning of the Bethel colored school and attacks on negroes and houses continued.

List of Arrests.

Those arrested were listed as Ed Gibson, Forrest Molden, Walter Conn, John Austin, Cliff Cochran, "Cricket" Croft, Wilbur Crowe, Ralph Coleman, Broughton Teems, Henry Martin, Milt McLarty, Red Moody, Boyd Purcell and Hugh Gibson. The prisoners live at Fair Oaks, Locust Grove, Smyrna and Marietta.

Deputy Sheriffs Dewey Gable and John Hood, the chief of police and an officer from the nearby Clarksdale community stood guard at the Marietta jail last night. They were armed with tear gas bombs, in addition to service revolvers.

The night passed without incident at Marietta, however.

At Smyrna, Chief of Police White reported that a crowd of "spectators" again began to assemble in the streets about 7 o'clock. State police and other officers told persons in the crowd to go home. The crowd reached its height—between 400 and 500 persons—about 8 o'clock.

Streets Quickly Cleared.

It was then that the real work of dispersal began. Without recourse to force, tear gas or firearms, the officers cleared the streets in 15 minutes. After this, state police patrolled edges of the small community on the Marietta road, driving around in automobiles and otherwise making sure that no groups gathered.

"We didn't have any trouble," said Chief White. "Most of the folks were just there to see what they could see. I don't know what they expected to find. We let them alone until we thought it was time to clear them from the streets. Then we did just that."

Funeral Services Held.

Double funeral services for George W. Camp, 66, and his daughter, Mrs. Christine Camp Pauls, whose murder caused the outbreaks, were held at Spring Street Baptist church in Smyrna. The rites passed without incident. State police and other officers patrolled the church area.

Scores of friends and neighbors of Camp and Mrs. Pauls, who were beaten to death last Saturday by Will Drew Russell, negro, now held in Tattnall prison for safekeeping, attended.

The rites were conducted by the Rev. H. E. Marlowe and Rev. W. W. Hunton. Burial was in Maloney Springs cemetery.

Citizens of Cobb county, especially Marietta, were aroused and indignant at the outbreaks of violence which were touched off by Russell's confession of the double slaying, many of them openly saying that "the better elements of the county do not countenance such actions."

In this connection, Judge Hawkins, who Tuesday issued an appeal for law and order at the request of members of the slain couple's family, reiterated previous statements that "Russell would have a fair and orderly trial."

Judge Hawkins yesterday conferred with Governor Rivers to assure order at the trial.

Otis A. Brumby, publisher of the Cobb County Times, offered $100 reward for the conviction of those responsible for the burning of the schoolhouse. This sum was quickly supplemented by $200 offered on behalf of the county by Commissioner Charles M. Head.

"Hoodlumism" Denounced.

Both men were vigorous in denouncing "hoodlumism" and "barbarism."

Deputy Sheriff Gable was another who voiced resentment at the demonstrations of Monday and Tuesday.

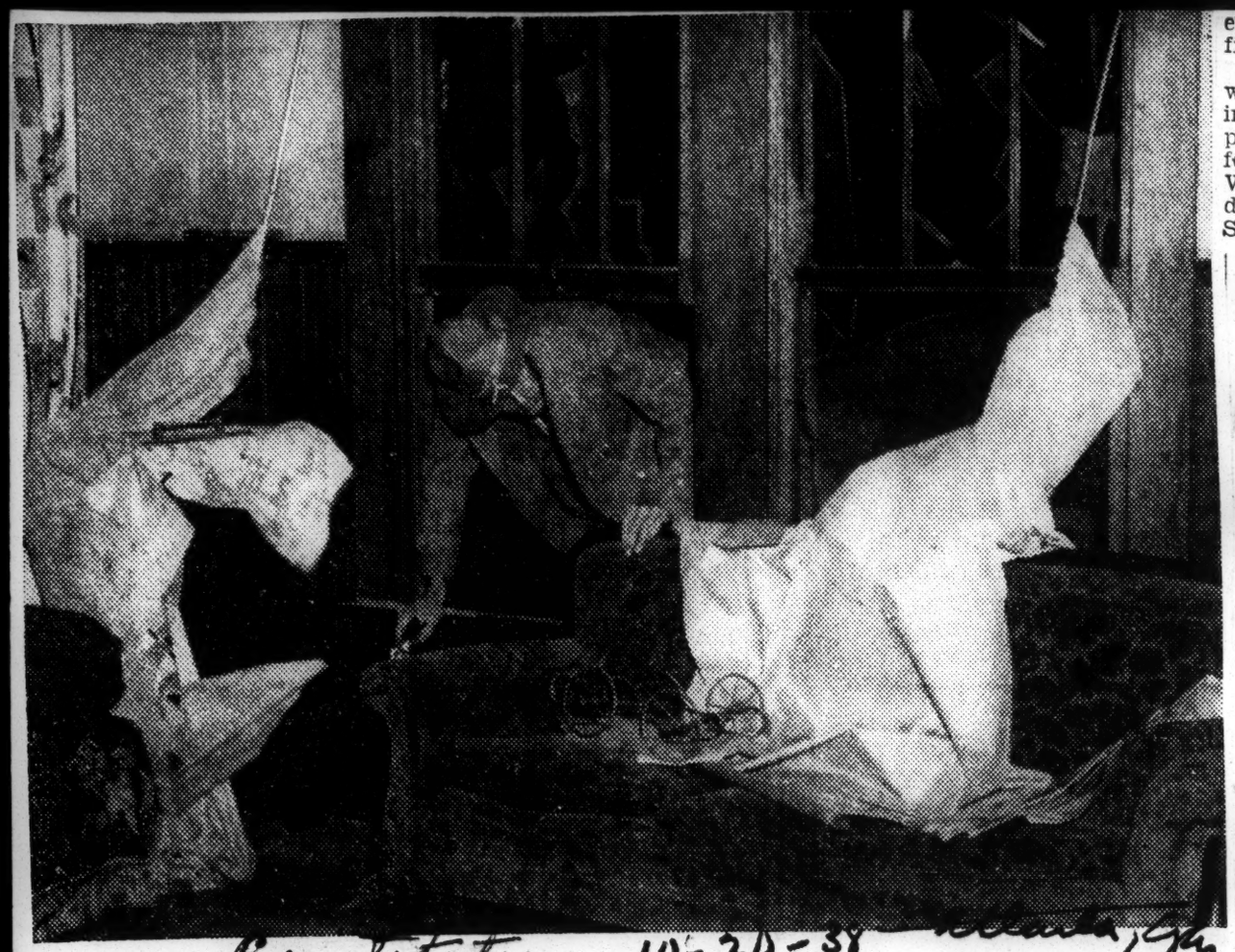
"The better people of Cobb county are against any action of that kind,'" he declared. "There is no reason for it, because justice will be dealt through the courts, as it should be. Assembling of mobs is not the expression of the majority of the people of Cobb county. Such things give the county a bad name and create a wrong impression. It is totally wrong."

Judge Hawkins, staunch in appeals to reason since the discovery Monday morning of the murders of Russell, said:

"Russell will get a fair trial. It is a reflection on the entire citizenry when a few hot-headed persons stir up others, with wanton destruction of property and assaults upon innocent persons."

As a further precautionary measure, liquor stores in Smyrna were closed yesterday.

Meanwhile, Cecil Pauls, son of the slain woman, was recovering in a Marietta hospital, his day cheered by arrival of gifts from sympathizers and well wishers. The boy suffered head injuries on the night of the murders.



Constitution 10-20-38

Constitution Staff Photo—Roto

How vandals left one of the 25 negro homes partly wrecked in the Smyrna outbreak Tuesday night. State Patrolman H. W. Beckham is seen examining damage to a house at 121 Elizabeth street

Good Work at Smyrna

The attitude of the better element of Cobb county toward the Smyrna mob which burned a Negro school house and damaged 24 Negro homes is shown by the offer of a $100 reward by Editor Otis Brumby of the Cobb County Times for the arrest of the perpetrators.

Judge Hawkins of the superior court of that county urged Governor Rivers to call out the national guard and both are to be commended for the promptness with which they co-operated with the local police.

This outbreak, in reprisal against the Negro groups of the community because of the murder of an aged citizen and his daughter by a Negro, was nipped in the bud and the authorities soon had the situation well in hand, but it is more than probable that if prompt steps had not been taken the mob spirit might have flamed still higher and Georgia would have contributed again toward the blackening of the comparatively good record of the year in the matter of lynchings.

Thus far, according to the records kept at Tuskeegee Institute, there have been but three clear cases of lynchings in the South this year. Unhappily, one of these was in Georgia. Another case in Mississippi seems to have been the shooting of a Negro who barricaded himself, well supplied with guns and ammunition, and was killed while resisting arrest.

Last year there were only eight lynchings in the country and even that record will have been more than cut in half unless we put another blot on the record before 1939.

The politicians who are sponsoring an anti-lynching bill in congress care little for the facts, but at least if we continue to reduce the number of deaths by mob violence here in the South, the advocates of that measure will be revealed all the more clearly as politicians and not sincere reformers or true friends to the Negro race.

NEGROES' HOMES STONED BY MOBS

By United Press

SMYRNA, Ga., Oct. 19.—Police reinforcements were called to Smyrna again today after new threats of mob violence resulting from a Negro's confessed slaying of an elderly farmer and his daughter.

The mob, swelled to 700 irate Cobb Countians, took to entering and stoning Negro homes last night before state patrolmen scattered the demonstrators with tear gas charges.

The night before a mob had beaten and shot several Negroes and fired a Negro school.

The slayer, Willie Russell, meanwhile, was taken to State Prison in Tattnall County for safekeeping pending his trial. He had confessed to cudgelling to death George Washington Camp, 66, and his daughter, Mrs. Christine Pauls, 26, Saturday night.

14 Arrested In Smyrna, Ga. Rioting Cases

"Fair and Just Trial" For Accused Slayer Pledged

11-5-38

SMYRNA, Ga.—Acting on the request of Judge J. H. Hawkins of Cobb County Superior Court, state and local police last week arrested fourteen young white men on malicious mischief growing out of an outbreak of violence on Tuesday night, October 18 when a mob wrecked a school, at least 25 Negro homes and an automobile, as the result of the slaying of a white farmer and his daughter. The prisoners were held in Marietta under bonds of $2500 each.

Sheriff E. M. Legg of Cobb County, who directed the arrests, said "more arrests may be made later." Simultaneously, Judge Hawkins reiterated previous statements that, Will Drew Russell, who police officers claim confessed to the slaying of George W. Camp, 66, and his daughter, Mrs. Christine Camp Pauls, 26, would "get a fair and just trial."

Meanwhile, rewards were offered for the conviction of "those responsible for the burning of the school house, assault against Negroes, and mob violence."

Commissioner Charles T. Head of Cobb County, backed up with $200 from the county, a reward of $100 offered by Otis A. Brumby, publisher of the Cobb County Times.

The warrants for the arrest of the fourteen men were issued at the request of Chief of Police C. T. White of Smyrna who was quoted as saying, that, "mobs were not Smyrna citizens, but persons from other communities."

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Riots - 1938

Troopers Maintain Peace In Smyrna; Fourteen Held

FLAMES ARE SHOWN destroying a two-story Negro school building near Smyrna, Ga., the prelude to a riot Tuesday night which placed 11 white men in jail Wednesday and a patrol of 30 state troopers in the mill town. The demonstration broke out after a Negro farm hand, Will Drew Russell, was reported to have confessed killing George W. Camp, aged Cobb county farmer, and his daughter, Mrs. Christine Camp Pauls.

COBB SHERIFF CRACKS DOWN ON VIOLENCE

Telegraph

Rewards Offered for Conviction of Persons Who Beat Negroes, Burned School

10-20-38

MORE ARRESTS MAY COME

Minister at Funeral of Slain Pair Reads Plea for Order From Relatives

Mason

SMYRNA, Oct. 19 (AP)—Approximately 50 state and local police officers patrolled this community tonight to preserve order while in nearby Marietta 14 young men were jailed on charges of malicious mischief growing out of disorders here Monday and Tuesday after a white man and woman were slain by a Negro.

Police Chief C. T. White said an apparent effort of new crowds to gather here tonight was checked when police enforced an order for all persons to keep moving.

Meanwhile, in Marietta, other law enforcement officers stood guard over the jail in which the 14 prisoners were held under bonds of $2,500 each.

Sheriff E. M. Legg of Cobb county, who directed the roundup said "more arrests may be made later." The action was taken at the request of Judge J. H. Hawkins of Cobb superior court.

Judge Hawkins reiterated previous statements that the Negro, Will Drew Russell, who officers said confessed to beating to death the pair last Saturday night, would "get a fair and just trial in Marietta."

During the demonstrations here, a Negro school was burned, several Negro houses damaged, and a number of Negroes beaten.

Meanwhile, rewards were offered for the conviction of "those responsible for the burning of the school house, assault against Negroes and mob violence."

Commissioner Charles T. Head, of Cobb county, backed up with $200 from the county, a reward of $100 offered by Otis A. Brumby, publisher of the Cobb County Times.

The warrants for the arrest of the men today were issued at the request of Chief of Police C. T. White, of Smyrna, where mobs formed Monday and Tuesday night. White said "the mobs were not Smyrna citizens, but persons from other communities."

Fifty state policemen, armed with revolvers and tear gas bombs, patrolled the small mill community of Smyrna, while double funeral rites were held for the victims, George W. Camp, 66, and his daughter, Mrs. Christine Camp Pauls. The rites were held at Spring Street Baptist church, with scores of neighbors and friends attending.

The services were conducted by the Revs. H. E. Marlowe and W. M. Hurton. Burial was in Maloney Springs cemetery.

Mr. Hunton read at the services a plea from the family of the slain pair for avoidance of disorders and expressing the "sincere desire that the matter be handled by the courts in an orderly manner."

TEAR GAS ROUTS SMYRNA RIOTERS

Constitution

Adjutant General Stoddard Hurls Bombs After Mob Attacks Negroes.

10-19-38

A further outbreak of violence in Smyrna, in which at least five negroes were beaten and 12 negro homes partly wrecked, was brought to a sudden end after two hours of rioting last night by six tear-gas bombs fired into the mob, after warning, by Adjutant General Jack Stoddard.

It was the second night of demonstration against negroes following a dual slaying near the town, late Saturday night, to which a negro under arrest in Atlanta had confessed.

At the height of the disorder, Judge J. H. Hawkins, of the Cobb superior court, telephoned Governor Rivers and demanded that a national guard detachment be sent. State patrolmen, numbering about 25, aided by deputy sheriffs and Cobb county police, managed to quiet the crowd somewhat, however.

General Stoddard, hurrying to the scene in an automobile, addressed the crowd at Marietta road and Church street, in the center of town, and warned them to depart. He followed his words with discharge of the bombs, standing upright in his automobile, and the the rioters retreated.

In the darkened section of northwest Smyrna, where negroes principally live, individuals and small groups broke windows and assailed any negroes they could find.

An expensive automobile, containing only a negro chauffeur, was stopped at Love's station, a quarter mile from Smyrna, and the negro was beaten as he ran. The car was then partly wrecked.

Two companies of the 122d infantry, National Guard, drilling in Atlanta, were brought to within a mile of Smyrna by Colonel T. L. Alexander, regimental commander, but did not enter the town, as civil officers were able to establish order.

General Stoddard, in his address preceding explosion of the bombs, warned the crowd to leave within five minutes. Many fled at once, and it was only into stragglers that the missiles fell.

Constitution

Following the incident, General Stoddard sent state troopers through the streets to arrest all loiters. By 10:30 o'clock the officials deemed the situation under control.

10-19-38

Indiscriminate stopping of all automobiles and street cars, without regard to whether they contained negroes, marked the mob's second night's actions.

Indignation against the outbreak openly was expressed on the public square in Marietta. More than fifteen persons, congregated there, hotly urged the effective action should be taken.

The new outbreak developed shortly after 7 o'clock, apparently without organized effort. Participants of the previous night's disturbances, augmented to an estimated total of 1,000, began again to stop all automobiles and street cars and to attack any negroes discovered.

Motorists Are Targets.

Motorists who refused commands to halt were targets of mnssiles, and a number of automobiles, which escaped, were damaged as they sped away.

One family of tourists, in an automobile driven by a negro chauffeur, stopped in Marietta and told of a hectic flight. They declared rocks were thrown at the machine as it passed through Smyrna and that several of the mob struck at the chauffeur as the car continued on the highway beside them.

Adjutant General Jack Stoddard, accompanied by Lon Sullivan, safety director of the state highway police, went first to the scene after Judge Hawkins' appeal, to determine the necessity for action by the national guard.

Company "M", of the guard, was assembled early at Marietta, its headquarters, and Judge Hawkins remained with them, awaiting the official word from the Governor and adjutant general. All 10 of the highway police in the Cartersville division were dispatched to Smyrna and they were reinforced by six deputy sheriffs and two county policemen.

Judge Hawkins, earlier in the day when all seemed quiet, had issued a public appeal for order in the names of all relatives of the slain pair. It asked that "friends and neighbors let justice be done in an orderly manner."

ONE WORD MORE

By RALPH McGILL.

THE MOB IS IGNORANCE! The flames were leaping up so high and so red they lighted the cotton patch across which we walked. The whole sky was lighted in that section. A few frightened birds, driven by the heat and flames from their roosts in adjacent trees, went wheeling about in the light.

The cotton had not been picked and the bolls took on a pinkish tint from the flames. The ground was soft and powder dry. There were automobile headlights on all the roads and the siren at the fire house was wailing.

This was at Smyrna Monday night when a very few people of the good county of Cobb were aroused to mob instincts by the brutal slaying of a farm couple and the near murder of a young boy. They had fired a negro schoolhouse.

I saw the men who were willing to be made into a mob. They were caught up by the excitement of it. Their faces showed it. A man mounted a box and tried to harangue the crowd to kill and burn. His face showed ignorance. Officers had him taken away.

Those men, running about the street, cursing and seeking victims to beat, were the products of ignorance. Not so much the ignorance which does not know how to read and write, but the ignorance of law and order and of human values. It was not their fault, but our own.

It was a great tribute to Cobb county and her splendid citizenship that only a few hundred of its people could so forget or fail to understand their duties as citizens as to be willing to be made into a mob. The law had acted. The one accused of the crime had confessed and awaited the punishment of the law. Cobb county again proved its worth to be called an intelligent, progressive county.

THE PERFECT SYMBOL! Walking through the cotton field toward the fire, watching the flames leap and roar and burn the autumn leaves off nearby trees, one kept thinking that here was the perfect symbol of the viciousness of mob instinct.

Some of the men had left the town and fired the schoolhouse. The mob instinct had caused the destruction of the one thing which can prevent such crimes as had aroused the passion of the mob.

If ever there was a perfect symbol of the stupidity of the mob instinct it was this putting the torch to the home of knowledge and education.

They had sought, too, to burn the church. It escaped.

The mob would destroy religion and education because the mob does not understand either. The two bulwarks against murder and crime were the targets of the mob.

Thus is the mob exposed in all its complete stupidity.

Smyrna had answered the threat. Smyrna and her peace officer had called in the state highway police to assist. There is a great organization. They are proud of their patrol, believe in it, and can tell you some prefectly startling things about drunken driving and where most of it originates. When they came in things grew quiet.

It was after they had come that the cowards slipped away and fired the schoolhouse to provide the perfect symbol for the stupidity of the mob instinct and for the darkness of ignorance.

PROGRESS CONTINUES The night also was a perfect example of why a federal anti-lynching law is unnecessary. Such a law would inflame, not subdue. We need only peace officers with character and courage. We need more schools, more teachers.

Lynching is the only crime which is disappearing. All the others march across our headlines and through our news announcements.

The schoolhouse which burned in Cobb county provided a light which will burn after the site of the old one is forgot and its embers covered with the plow. Some of the men who were in the spirit of the mob today are thanking God their hands, too, are not guilty of murder. They will not listen again to ignorance on a soap box.

There is a real need for honest county government in some of Georgia's 159 counties. You may hear strange stories of counties where drunken drivers are freed by juries who laugh at the law; of road houses whose business is illicit, which send forth their product—the drunken driver.

There again, Cobb county has scored by clamping on the lid.

But each highway has its share of "hot" road houses. The state highway patrol knows which ones are hot and they know from which ones come the drunken drivers. They are not empowered to do anything about them.

There are those who are so empowered.

Editor Assails Ga. Terrorists

But He's Angry Because They Hurt White People

MARIETTA, Ga.(ANP)—Nothing less than "full and complete punishment as prescribed by law" for those guilty of the recent racial disorders centering in Smyrna will please the white citizens of this community, the Cobb County Times, local white paper, stated editorially last week.

A front page editorial headed, "You Yellow Rats," blasted the mobbists, not for beating colored people and burning colored people's property, but for their attacks on white tourists, white property inhabited by colored, and "the effect on the outside world."

Said the Times in part:

White Landlord Suffered

"There is the case of Claude T. Osborn, life long resident of Smyrna. A white man, mind you. Mr. Osborn had fourteen tenant houses. You, Mr. Mob, damaged eleven of them to the extent of, let's say, $500 to be conservative. Did that hurt the Negroes?

"By now, Mr. Mobster, you probably have your tongue in your cheek and and you leer and sneer, 'Well, anyhow, we burned their old school house Monday night. That hurt them, I reckon.'

"Whose schoolhouse was it? It belonged to the Cobb County board of education. This board, in case you and your crazy companions didn't know, is composed of white men.

"Whose loss was it? The taxpayers who paid for it and who must rebuild it. And you are not a taxpayer!"

More Than Score Held

None of those arrested and held in bonds of $2,500 for 'malicious mischief' admit being guilty. More than thirty have been arrested and warrants have been issued for ninety persons.

The case grew out of the slaying of George W. Camp, 66, white farmer, and his daughter, Mrs. Christian Camp Pauls, 26, allegedly by Willie Drew Russell, 31, construction worker.

Russell, arrested and taken to Atlanta for safekeeping, contends he was attacked by the elderly man during an argument over $5

Riots - 1938

Georgia

Three Smyrna Churches Condemn Mob Action as 'Disgusting Affair'

Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist Congregations Express Hope Courts Will Mete Punishment to Those Who Incited Actions of Rioters.

Mob violence in Smyrna following the murder of an aged Cobb county citizen and his daughter has been condemned in a resolution adopted by three churches in Smyrna.

Characterizing the demonstration "a most disgraceful, disgusting and deplorable affair," the resolution explains "the law abiding body of citizens of Smyrna did not foment nor aid the mob, but that on the other hand was very much opposed to it."

The resolution was adopted by the Smyrna Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist churches. The Smyrna occurrence followed discovery of the battered bodies of George W. Camp and his daughter, Mrs. Christine Camp Pauls. Willie Russell, a negro, was arrested in connection with the deaths and now awaits trial.

"The whole affair was uncalled for and unwarranted," the resolution declares. "Many of our local citizens have suffered financial loss. Many travelers passing through Smyrna were insulted and some had their cars damaged. All of us, and the city of Smyrna, have lost prestige and standing in the eyes of the world because of the affair. . . .

"The mob consisted very largely of residents of other communities—mostly young men—who took advantage of a bad situation and did things they would not have dared do individually. We condemn the mob and the mob spirit and will have no part in it, nor accept responsibility for it, although we suffer at its hands. It is un-Christian, unlawful and violates all laws of fairness, justice and reason."

Resolution expressed hope "our courts will see that justice is meted out in all cases and that all who may be proven to have incited the mob spirit, punished."

Grand Jury, Meeting Nov. 7, Slated To Act on Dual Slaying, Also.

MARIETTA, Ga., Oct. 29.—Investigation of race demonstrations at Smyrna October 17 and 18 and of the slaying of an aged white farmer and his daughter which led to the rioting will be launched by the Cobb county grand jury which meets here November 7, court officials said today.

Of the 27 suspects arrested and charged with participating in the riot, 23 have been released under bonds of $1,000 each, Sheriff E. M. Legg said. Judge J. H. Hawkins reduced the original bond of $2,500 this week for those released. Four remaining in jail were listed by the sheriff as Buck Miller, Red Moody, Ed Gibson and G. T. Hamby.

Willie Drew Russell, 31-year-old Cobb county negro accused of slaying George W. Camp, 66, and his daughter, Mrs. Christine Camp Pauls, 26, with an ax handle, is now at the state prison. Officers said he had confessed to the crime.

Brunswick, Ga., News
October 19, 1938

LAW ENFORCEMENT GROUPS PRESERVE ORDER AT SMYRNA

Adjutant Geneal Stoddard, State Police and County Officers Strive to Break Up Sporadic Violence

NO GATHERINGS ARE PERMITTED IN TOWN

Outbreak Follows Negro's Confession That He Killed Elderly Farmer and His Daughter With Axe Handle

Smyrna, Ga., Oct. 19. (AP)—Georgia's adjutant general, John E. Stoddard state police and county officers cooperated here today in an effort to break up sporadic violence of the past two days which followed the reported confession by a negro that he had killed an elderly farmer and his daughter with an ax handle.

Stoddard after talking with Governor E. D. Rivers said he would permit no gathering "of any description at any time during the day or night," and that officers would be instructed to keep all traffic moving through this small town thirteen miles north of Atlanta.

It also was announced that the negro, identified by authorities as Will Drew Russell, 31, had been removed from an Atlanta jail to Georgia's new state prison in Tattnall county, located in the southern part of the state.

Stoddard last night resorted to tear gas as a means of dispersing a crowd estimated by police at from 500 to 1,000 which blocked traffic through the main street of the town.

Automobiles and cars of an interurban line were stopped by the demonstrators, who said they were searching for negroes. Several negroes were removed from cars and trucks and beaten, but no serious injuries were reported.

Police Chief C. T. White said an estimated 25 negro homes had been damaged by the demonstrators. On Monday night a 10-room negro school was burned.

Arrangements were made to hold funeral services today for George W. Camp, 66, and his daughter, Mrs. Christine Camp Pauls, 26, victims of the attacker. Their bodies were found Monday after Mrs. Pauls' 9-year-old son, Cecil, himself seriously injured by blows from the intruder, made his way to the house of a neighbor.

Superior Court Judge J. H. Hawkins, who personally aided in summoning officers last night, said today arrangements were made to handle any situation that might develop. He declared he was assured by state and county officials of all necessary cooperation.

Judge Hawkins also arranged to have the Marietta national guard unit stand in readiness for a call.

He made public a statement signed by nine relatives of the slain persons, asking the public generally to refrain from any show of violence or the arousing of any excitement in connection "with this unfortunate occurrence."

The statement said "it is our will and sincere desire that the matter be handled by the courts in an orderly manner that justice may be done and the good name and reputation of our county be preserved."

State officials planned to send an adequate number of officers during the double funeral. Services were scheduled at Spring Street Baptist church

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
October 18, 1938

GEORGIANS BURN NEGROES' SCHOOL

Smyrna Mob Acts After News Negro Confesses Slaying Two With Axe Handle

SMYRNA, Ga., Oct. 17 (AP).—Chief of Police C. T. White said a crowd of unidentifed men burned a ten-room two-story Negro school near here during a demonstration tonight following reported confession by a Negro that he was responsible for a double slaying Saturday night.

Chief White said earlier in the evening "several Negroes—I don't know exactly how many"—were beaten and stoned by white citizens.

The demonstrations followed arrest as a Negro identified by police as Will Drew Rusesll, 31.

Capt. B. W. Seabrook, of the Atlanta police, said Russell confessed slaying 66-year-old George W. Camp a Cobb county farmer, and Camp's daughter, Mrs. Christine Camp Pauls 26, with an axe handle. The bodies of Camp and his daughter were found at their isolated home near here early today when Mrs. Pauls' 9-year-old son Cecil, reached a neighbor's house after thirty hours of unconsciousness.

The boy, battered about the head said the Negro struck him with the axe handle.

Seabrook, who questioned the Negro, said he claimed Camp struck him first in an argument over $5, which he contended Camp owed him. Seabrook said Russell's signed statement admitted he had been "drinking heavily."

Savannah, Ga., Press
November 7, 1938

COBB'S GRAND JURY ORDERED TO PROBE RACIAL DISORDERS

MARIETTA, Nov. 7 (INS). — Declaring that anti-negro demonstrations has cast a reflection upon Cobb county, Judge J. H. Hawkins today called upon the grand jury to investigate the recent riots that resulted when a negro confessed he had murdered an aged man and his daughter

"So far as I know no one was seriously injured in the demonstrations," Judge Hawkins said, "but there were painful injuries to some persons and a wilful destruction of property.

"It is the duty of the jury to study the evidence and return indictments if anyone is guilty of misconduct."

M. D. Hodges, Marietta druggist was named foreman of the grand jury, and Merritt Lyon, Marietta accountant, clerk.

RACE RIOT PROBE URGED BY JUDGE

Constitution

Cobb Jury Also Asked To Investigate Shooting of Ex-Wrestler.

Grand jury investigation of racial disorders in Smyrna on the nights of October 17 and 18 following the murder of a Cobb county man and his daughter, was urged yesterday by Judge J. H. Hawkins at the opening session of Cobb county superior court in Marietta.

Judge Hawkins also called upon the November grand jury to investigate the mysterious shooting of William A. Ward, 26-year-old ex-wrestler, on the night of October 26.

Murder of George Camp and his 26-year-old daughter allegedly by a negro, Willie Russell, who confessed to the crime, was responsible for the outbreak in Smyrna. Solicitor H. G. Vandiviere said investigation by the grand jury is expected to begin today or tomorrow.

In commenting upon the Smyrna demonstrations, Judge Hawkins said:

"So far as I know no one was seriously injured in the demonstrations, but there were painful injuries to some persons and wilful destruction of private property. It is the duty of the jury to study the evidence and return indictments if anyone is guilty of misconduct."

M. D. Hodges, Marietta druggist, was named foreman of the grand jury, and Merritt Lyon, Marietta accountant, clerk.

COBB PLANS PROBE OF SMYRNA RIOTING

Constitution

10-30-38

Marietta, Ga., Journal
October 19, 1938

SMYRNA

Officers Prepare For New Violence Threats; 6 Held, More Sought

Warrants Issued For Arrest of 16 Others Following Tuesday's Outbreak, State Co-operation For Aid Is Pledged

Police reinforcements were stationed at Smyrna today because of more threats of mob violence resulting from a negro's confessed slaying of an elderly county farmer and his daughter.

Last night's outbreak resulted in injury to one state trooper and an Acworth trucker and arrest of six residents of Fair Oaks, Smyrna and Lemons district. Criminal warrants have been issued by county officers for the arrest of at least 15 more members of the violent mob.

Adequate forces of state troopers were detached to Smyrna and ordered to open headquarters and preserve peace. Tuesday night's mob, swelled to several hundred irate participants, most of whom arrived from Bolton, Austell Clarkdale and outside communities.

The mob took to entering and stoning negro homes last night before state patrolmen scattered the demonstrators with "five or six" tear gas charges.

It was altogether different from the mob the night before when a group had beaten and stoned several negroes and fired a 2-room negro school frame.

In the name of relatives of the slain pair, Superior Judge Harold Hawkins issued a public appeal and asked that friends and neighbors let justice be done in an orderly manner.

Downing Musgrove, executive secretary to Governor Rivers, assured Judge Hawkins and Sheriff E. M. Legg that ample forces will be on hand in Smyrna throughout the day and night and the remainder of the week if necessary, to preserve peace and order.

Further outbreak of violence was anticipated during the late hours of tonight. Information reaching Marietta discloses that street scenes were not expected before one or two o'clock in the morning.

Six persons were taken into custody and will be held on charges of malicious mischief and rioting. Two Fair Oaks residents, reported by state patrol to have held up a street car operator and threatened disorder among its passengers, were held in jail on $2,500 bond. They were listed as Henry Martin and Broughton Teem.

County police and deputy sheriffs lodged four others in jail this afternoon. They were Conn Barnett, Red Moody, James Crowder and Huie Gibson, all of Smyrna and Lemons district.

State patrolmen, county police and deputy sheriffs were to handle crowds expected at the double rites this afternoon at the Spring Street Baptist Church. Interment is to follow in the Maloney Springs Cemetery.

The slayer, Willie Russell, meanwhile, was taken to state prison in Tattnall County for safekeeping pending his trial. He had confessed to cudgelling to death George Washington Camp, 66, and his daughter, Mrs. Christine Pauls, 26, last Sunday morning. He also wounded Cecil Pauls, 9, who recovered consciousness Monday and reported the slayings, identifying Russell as the attacker.

Cecil was much improved in the Marietta Hospital during the day.

C. C. Terrell, Smyrna city clerk and C. P. White, the city's only police officer, said that the "mob" which gathered there Tuesday night was larger and rougher than the one present Monday night.

They asked for enough officers to prevent any serious recurrence Wednesday night.

Tuesday's crowd was said to have come from the river valley around Bolton, Clarkdale, Austell and other outlying areas. A few Smyrna residents were identified and will be arraigned as soon as warrants can be issued.

The crowd stopped automobiles and trucks, beat a score of negroes, threw rocks through windows of negro homes and at times threatened two state patrolmen who had gone to the aid of a negro riding a truck.

Not until the crowd had been warned by State Adwjutant General John Stoddard to disperse, were bombs thrown.

A Smyrna druggist reported telephone communications to his store was cut when state officers sought to call for aid.

In the darkened section of northwest Smyrna, where negroes reside principally, individuals and small groups broke windows and assailed any negroes they could spot.

An expensive out-of-town automobile containing a negro chauffeur and two women was stoned and windows and windshield shattered to pieces.

P. C. Ragsdale, Jr., of Acworth, suffered arm injuries when a group circled his truck to reach a negro occupant.

Indignant county authorities assembled in session with Judge Hawkins during the morning and appealed to state authorities for adequate protection tonight. Sheriff E. M. Legg ordered the city's two liquor stores to close the remainder of the week.

At the height of Tuesday's disorder, Judge Hawkins telephoned Governor Rivers and demanded that a national guard detachment be sent. Twenty-five patrolmen, county deputies and police were on the scene shortly after the mob began gathering.

Police Chief W. J. Black, Jr., who is captain of the Marietta guards, had assembled his unit and was ready for duty pending orders from Adjutant Stoddard.

Georgia Publication Says Mob Members Are "Yellow Rats" In Ringing Editorial

Vents Spleen When Outlaws Destroy White Property In Negro Section

Charge 35 With Malicious Mischief

MARIETTA, Ga.—(ANP)—Nothing less than "full and complete punishment, as prescribed by law," for those guilty of the recent racial disorders centering in Smyrna will please the white citizens of this community, the Cobb County Times, local white paper, stated editorially last week.

A front page editorial headed "You Yellow Rats" blasted the mobbists not for beating Negroes and burning Negro prop[illegible] for their attacks on white tourists, white property inhabited by colored, and "the effect on the outside world."

Said the Times: "The intelligent people of Cobb county (and you'd be surprised how many there are, Mr. Mob . . . you ignorant fool) are still wondering if you REALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE HURTING THE NEGROES? Fool that you are, you probably thought so.

"Let's see what you did.

"There's the case of Claude T. Osborn, life-long resident of Symrna. A white man, mind you. Mr. Osborn had 14 tenant houses. You, Mr. Mob, damaged 11 of them to the extent of, let say, $500 to be conservative. Did that hurt the Negroes?

"There's the case of two aged women tourists whose car was stopped ,the window glasses smashed and the door snatched off. Did that hurt the Negroes?

'By now, Mr. Mobster, you probably have your tongue in your cheek and you leer and sneer, Well, anyhow, we burned their old schoolhouse Monday night. That hurt them, I reckon.'

"That statement just proves what an unmitigated idiot and moron you are, Mr. Mob.

"Whose schoolhouse was it? It belonged to the ob County Board of Education!. This board, in case you and crazy companions didn't know, is composed of WHITE MEN.

"Whose loss was it? The taxpayers who paid for it and who must rebuild it. And you are not a taxpayer?"

The editorial continued in similar vein, telling of the loss of business sustained by local merchants and the embarrassment sustained by citizens who were elsewhere and read of the riot in daily papers.

None of those arested and held in bonds of $2,500 for "malicious mischief" admit being guilty. More than 30 have been arrested and warrants have been issued for 90 persons. The ages of those jailed range for the most part between 17 and 30.

Cobb deputies and police described most of those behind the bars as ringleaders. Deputy Emmett Marler said he heard several discussing acts of violence which they proposed doing and warned them not to carry out their plans. They did anyway and were arested.

The case grew out of the salying of George W. Camp, 66, white farmer, and his daughter, Mrs Christina Camp Pauls, 26, allegedly by Willie Drew Russell, 31, construction worker. Russell, arrested and taken to Atlanta for safekeeping, contends he was attacked by the elderly man during an argument over $5.

Riots - 1938

Georgia

Malicious Mischief

Daily World 10-20-38

Charged To Mobsters

"Economic Interest" Angle

Atlanta, Ga.

"Hinted As Cause Of Brutal Demonstrations In Cobb

Sheriff E. M. Legg, of Cobb county, announced Wednesday night that 22 young white men had been arrested and placed in the Cobb county jail at Marietta on charges of malicious mischief. Officers linked the arrests with the rioting in Smyrna, Monday and Tuesday nights, which resulted in more than 50 colored persons suffering brutal attacks, their homes stoned and the burning of the lone Negro school house.

The sheriff said the men ranged in age from 20 to 25 years and were being held without bond. The suspects will be questioned for allegedly taking part in the mob that terrorized the colored people of Smyrna.

JUDGE PUSHES ACTION

Action was reported taken at the suggestion of Judge J. W. Hawkins, of Cobb county superior court, who was quoted as saying "the good people of Cobb county did not countenance mob rule."

The mob action was considered the outgrowth of the double slaying Saturday night of two white persons, Mrs. Christine Camp Pauls, and her father, George W. Camp. Their funerals were held Wednesday afternoon at a Smyrn a church.

Arrested in conection with the crime and alleged to have confessed was Willie Drew Russell, 31, of Smyrna. He is being held in Tattnall prison.

NAACP CONTACTS GOVERNOR

Aroused by the form of brutality exhibited Tuesday by the Smyrna mob, Forrester B. Washington. president of the Atlanta branch of the NAACP, contacted the Governor's office Wednesday morning and asked that a thorough investigation be made.

In the meantime, the NAACP head sent a representative to Smyrna to make a personal investigation. The representative reported that quiet existed and that State Highway Patrolmen were guarding the town.

Governor River's secretary advised Mr. Washington that Adjutant General John E. Stoddard had the situation under control, as he was in direct charge of State Highway Patrolmen and Cobb county policemen who had orders to break up all gatherings.

SEES ECONOMIC ANGLE

A prominent Atlanta white man who visited the "riot" town Wednseday afternoon advanced the theory that the unemployed and "poorer class" of white people living in and around Smyrna were using the situation to advance "their economic interests at the expense of colored people holding jobs in the Smyrna area."

In a special statement Wednesday, Judge Hawkins declared that the accused slayer would be given a fair trial in Marietta.

In a determined effort to sift out the men who actually set fire to the school house, rewards were offered Wednesday for the conviction of the parties responsible for the burning of the frame building. The rewards are also being offered for conviction of those guilty of attacking the many Smyrna people and storming their homes.

REWARDS OFFERED

Otis A. Brumby, white publisher in Marietta, offered a $100 reward, and an additional $200 reward was offered by Commissioner Charles T. Head, of Cobb county.

Warrants for the arrest of the suspects were issued Wednesday by the Smyrna chief of police, C. T. White.

Prominent citizens of Cobb county were quick to say that those taking part in the mob came from other communities. NAACP president, Forrester B. Washington, expressed the same opinion.

INVESTIGATION NOT OVER

Officers said the arrest of the 22 men did not mean that the investigation was over.

"The good people of Cobb county desire law and order and they are going to get it," Superior Judge Hawkins declared.

Throughout Wednesday, night and day, 30 State Highway Patrolmen, Smyrna police, Cobb county officers and several detectives from Atlanta patrolled the Smyrna community. The state patrolmen were armed with revolvers and tear gas bombs.

SUSPECT TO TATTNALL

Willie Drew Russell was removed from Fulton Tower to Tattnall prison Tuesday night. The mob organized Monday afternoon when it was felt that Russell was going to be transferred from Fulton Tower by automobile to the Cobb county jail.

Russell was arrested Monday morning on a construction job near Atlanta after the wounded son of Mrs. Pauls named Russell as the assailant. The boy was quoted as saying Russell came to their home Saturday night and killed the aged man with an axe handle following an argument. The boy said the alleged slayer beat to death Mrs. Paul with the axe handle when she jumped out of the bed and then knocked him unconscious when he ran to the aid of his mother.

The boy, according to reports remained unconscious 30 hours, before gaining enough strength to make his way to a neighbor's house to tell of the brutal crime.

INSISTS DOUBLE ATTACK

Following his arrest, Russell is alleged to have confessed, declaring he was drunk when he went to Camp's home to collect a $5 debt. He insisted that Camp struck him with a walking cane and that Mrs. Pauls attacked him with a baseball bat. He said he did not remember striking the boy.

First mob action took place Monday night when a mob of approximately 500 whites rushed colored people from street cars and made them run into the night. When state patrolmen forced the mob to leave town, the gang went to the colored district and burned down the colored school house.

New rioting took place Tuesday night with the rioters again raiding streetcars, searching automobiles for "N——," and storming colored houses with stones and sticks.

COLORED RESIDENTS FLEE

Practically all of the colored residents of Smyrna had fled to Marietta and other nearby points Wednesday.

A Ray Of Hope In Smyrna

To America's shame list, now headed by Duck Springs, Miss.; Marianna, Fla.; Ruston, La.; and Cordele, Ga., can now be added the community of Smyrna, Ga., just fifteen miles from Atlanta. Daily World

Though no actual lynching has yet taken place, the same unreasonable, cowardly and brutal spirit that has inflamed mobs throughout the South for all these years is there with all of its inhuman force. 10-20-38

Unable to secure the miserable suspect charged with the brutal crime, the mob for two successive nights under the protective cloak of darkness, has wreaked all its savage vengeance on helpless and innocent members of his race.

The schoolhouse was burned, efforts were made to set fire to the church, windows of residences in the colored section were broken out, a colored business place was wrecked, innocent persons unaware what it was all about, were rudely forced off street cars, and made to run a gamut of stones, old citizens of the community were chased out of town. Atlanta, Ga.

That these attacks were unwarranted and without justification is beyond argument. They are only the unfortunate physical and outward manifestations of revenge against a whole race for the act of one of its members.

It is to be hoped that this vengeance does not extend itself to the point where innocent people are deprived of their jobs and livelihood. That would be an unfairness that could assume tragic proportions.

The only bright ray of hope in the entire dismal affair is the apparently sincere efforts of the better-thinking citizens and police officials of Cobb county to restore law and order out of a situation that easily might have ended in chaos.

Twenty-two suspects in the burning of the schoolhouse have already been arrested, and the investigations have just begun. Determined state patrolmen on two occasions have resorted to tear gas to break up the rioting. Superior Court Judge Hawkins of Cobb County made immediate efforts to summon state militia when told of the uprising.

This is a new kind of action for Georgia officials in affairs of this kind. It displays a stern determination to show proponents of federal antilynching legislation that it is possible to blot out the evil of mob-law and its companion, lynching, through purely local action.

Though the ATLANTA WORLD has consistently stood for the passage of this type of federal measure, it does not hesitate to commend those officials for their entirely laudable stand and hopes that they quickly bring to justice those responsible for the unfortunate incidents in neighboring Smyrna.

Smyrna 'Deserted' By Group, Reporter Finds

Daily World 10-20-38

Suspect's Wife Unharmed, At Friend's Home In Marietta; Had "Hunch"

Atlanta, Ga.

Smyrna, Georgia was strictly a white man's town Wednesday. A few colored women, employed as maids in white homes ventured on the main thoroughfare occasionally, and only then at the request of their employes.

Throughout the downtown section, groups of watchful white men and youths loitered on the corners. But close at hand were several State Highway Patrolmen who kept their eyes glued on the white gatherings and passing automobiles.

SPEED THROUGH TOWN

A truck load of colored men passed through the town, but the driver appeared to be violating the speed limit.

Cobb County policemen and several highway patrolmen sat on the porch of the city hall. They, too had their eyes focused on the little groups and passing vehicles.

In the afternoon, most of the Smyrna citizens were on the North Side of the town attending the double funeral of George W. Camp and his daughter, Mrs. Christine Camp Pauls, who were beaten to death Saturday night. Their deaths, allegedly the crimes of Willie Drew Russell, 31, who is being held in Tattnall prison for safekeeping, is believed to have caused the rioting and mob action Monday and Tuesday nights, which resulted in injuries to many colored people.

CONTINUE TERROISM

The doors of several Marietta Georgia homes were opened Wednesday to terrorized colored people who deserted the riot-torn Smyrna. It was estimated that more than fifty colored residents of Smyrna evaded Marietta for protection.

Mrs. Eliza Johnson, a widow with her family of ten, are being given shelter at the home of Mrs Annie Lee McAfee, 415 Lemmon Street, Marietta.

Mrs. Johnson said there were three familes, about 15 persons in all, crowded in her home Tuesday night when the mob hurled stones through the windows of the house.

Miss Hattie Kate Thomas declared the gang broke windows in her house and then tore open a colored lunch stand, breaking up an electric victrola.

EARLY DESERTION OF TOWN

Most of the terrorized victims deserted the little town between midnight Tuesday and early Wednesday morning.

The Negro homes are scattered mostly on the outskirts of Smyrna and in the woody section.

SUSPECT'S WIFE TALKS

Sitting in the home of a Marietta friend Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. Johnie Mae Russell, 21-year-old wife of the "confessed" double slayer, declared she had a hunch her husband was going to get in trouble.

She said he left their home Saturday night, saying he was going to a "skin game." Daily

"I begged him not to go and told him I had a feeling he was going to meet with trouble," the young woman stated. World

"I didn't know anything about the crime he is accused of until Monday," she added. 10-20-38

"WOULD LIKE TO HELP"

Wringing her hands, Mrs. Russell cried, "I would like to help him, Atlanta but it takes money to hire a lawyer. I would like to go to jail and see my husband, but I've been told that they won't let me see him."

Mrs. Russell said the mob made no effort to harm her. She and several other colored persons were given protection in the homes of white people living in Smyrna, before leaving for Marietta.

The Russells have been married two years. They do not have any children.

They're Just D. D.'s

SMYRNA, GA., HAS AT LAST found its place in the sun! By this time you have have read of the orgy of mobocracy that the whites of that God-forsaken little southern town staged for the benefit (?) of our great American civilization last week. It was an exhibition of the necessity of the southern mob as a factor in our American jurisprudence. But we wonder whether or not you took out time to study the action of those barbarous whites to the extent you were, once again, able to arrive at a psychological interpretation of the commitments of mobbists, their theories and the meaning of their doctrine of bloodlust and wanton murder! If the problem was too hard for you, we will help you, the best we know how, in solving it.

The Smyrna mob was foiled in its attempt to get its hands on an intended victim. He was a young Negro who, according to his story, slew in self-defense. But the mob never listens to stories of self-defense coming from a black man who has slain a white man in the South. The purpose of the mob in Smyrna, Ga., as is the case all over the South, was not the meting out of justice. That's point number one. Foiled, they turned to persecuting innocent Negroes, destroying property, terrorizing the town. This action showed that the mobbists were more depraved than savage; more ignorant than barbarous. For only the depraved and the ignorant, the bestial and the brainless, resort to vandalism, persecute the blameless whenever their first intent is negated. Even the savages of darkest Africa, or the bushmen of the down-under country of Australia, would not have been guilty of such procedure as that employed by the Smyrna mob in destroying the property of their own fellowmen.

To us, southern mobs remind one of nothing so much as they do a pack of half-starved hounds—they're just plain damned dogs—whose hatred for their prey is accentuated by their desire for a taste of his life blood. If luckily, the crafty fox escapes, the timid hare becomes the victim of their bloodlust. And so it was in Smyrna, Ga.—the "dogs" sought satiation of a bloodlust that is traditional to whites of that section because it has been so long tolerated, so long winked at. Why should we dignify them by calling them human being? They warrant no other designation than just plain damned dogs!

Riots - 1938

Georgia 6

"You Yellow Rats—"

(An Editorial From The Cobb County Times.)

For once in its history The Times feels disinclined—in fact, downright ashamed—to print all the news. . . . But in keeping with a 22-year-old policy of frankness and independence, your county newspaper presents today full summaries of the events of this week, as shameful as they are.

Briefly what has happened at Smyrna is that a gang of young hoodlums—rats, mobsters, thugs or whatever you wish to call them—for two days violated about every fundamental right that American citizens have. . . .

The Declaration of Independence says that "all men are created free and equal." We wonder how the innocent WHITE MEN and negroes who were mauled and mistreated by the mob feel about this phrase in the Declaration.

The American Constitution says that private property is sacred. We wonder how the WHITE MEN and WOMEN whose houses and autos were damaged to the extent of several thousand dollars feel about the sanctity of their property.

There are certain personal rights, privileges and protection to which all private citizens are entitled. We wonder how the WHITE TOURISTS feel about being stopped, intimidated and searched by the mob.

And about now, it's time for one of you cowardly hoodlums, Mr. Mob, to yell, "Oh, yeah. Well, we're going to drive the negroes out of Cobb county. To hell with your paper!" (That is, of course, if you mobsters can read and **think,** which is extremely doubtful.)

Well, Mr. Mob, it's your time to get a few plain facts through your thick skulls:

1. The Cobb County Times is posting $100—a hundred iron men, to you—for the conviction of the yellow rats who were responsible for the burning of Bethel schoolhouse and the rioting in Smyrna Tuesday night.

2. Commissioner Charles M. Head, of Cobb county, is planking down $200 for the same purpose . . . and there may be more from other sources.

3. This newspaper represents the good people of Cobb county who stand for law and order in Cobb county and will proceed to vigorously advocate in every possible manner the arrest and trial of every person who played any part in the shameful rioting.

And now, Mr. Mob, let's get down to cases.

The intelligent people of Cobb county (and you'd be surprised how many there are, Mr. Mob . . . you ignorant fool) are still wondering if you REALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE HURTING THE NEGROES? Fool that you are, you probably thought so.

Let's see if you did.

There's the case of Claude T. Osborn, lifelong resident of Smyrna. A white man, mind you. Mr. Osborn has 14 tenant houses. You, Mr. Mob, damaged 11 of them to the extent of, let's say, $500, just to be conservative. Did that hurt the negroes?

There's the case of P. C. Ragsdale, of Acworth, a WHITE truck driver who was painfully cut on the arm and mauled when you, Mr. Mob, stopped his truck to beat a negro passenger. The negroes escaped with much lesser injuries.

There's the case of two aged women tourists whose car was stopped, the window glasses smashed and the door snatched off. Did that hurt the negroes?

By now, Mr. Mobster, you probably have your tongue in your cheek and you leer and sneer, "Well, anyhow, we burned their old schoolhouse Monday night. That hurt 'em, I reckon."

That statement just proves what an unmitigated idiot and moron you are, Mr. Mob.

Whose schoolhouse was it? It belonged to the Cobb county board of education! This board, in case you and your crazy companions didn't know it, is composed of WHITE MEN.

Whose loss was it? The taxpayers who paid for it and who must rebuild it. And you are not a taxpayer!

We come to a point now, Mr. Mob, that you wouldn't grasp, but the thinking residents of Cobb county grasp it; in fact, are already seeing its effects.

The riots Monday and Tuesday hurt business in Smyrna and Marietta this week. Cobb county received some of the worst advertising possible—all over America the decent people are wondering about what kind of civilization we have down here. They don't know that you, Mr. Mob, were a small, criminal minority composed of nontaxpayers, nonresidents and just plain nonentities. They don't know that the good citizens of the county—at least 34,700 of the 35,000 inhabitants—were not of the same ilk you were . . . that they think of you in just the same terms we are writing of you.

The Atlanta papers were polite in their handling of the story . . . but not so in the St. Louis, the New York, the San Francisco, the Chicago papers. Their headlines screamed in huge black type—"Race Riot in Smyrna, Georgia—Mob Mauls Negroes. . . ." Ask one Marietta merchant how he felt Tuesday morning when he read the papers in St. Louis, where he had gone quite as usual to buy a stock of goods. What could he tell those St. Louis friends of his?

Oh, yes, Mr. Mobster, Cobb county is for justice. And, so help us, we'll see that YOU GET JUSTICE. We aren't worried about black Willie Russell. He'll get justice. The law makes full provision for criminals like Willie and—God have mercy on his soul—Willie will pay the penalty without any prodding on the part of the newspapers. . . . But courts, Mr. Mobster, will take care of you, too.

Lynching is already one of the rarest crimes in the nation and sooner or later mob violence will be an impossibility, a thing of the past, in Cobb county, in Georgia, the south and the nation.

The Times has the utmost confidence that the persons now under arrest and in Marietta jail under charges of participating in the riots at Smyrna Monday and Tuesday night will be dealt swift, fair and impartial justice.

If these persons are guilty of the acts of which they are accused, the upstanding citizens of Cobb county want them to be tried and, if they are convicted, they should be sentenced by the courts to the penalties provided by law.

If they are innocent, free them and clear their names.

For once and for all, the law-abiding citizens of Cobb county want to demonstrate to the people of these United States that Cobb county justice is a sacred thing and that the badge of law and order is a "Badge of Honor."

ORDER RESTORED IN ATTACK ON NEGROES

28 Men Arrested; Homes Are Burned In Smyrna

By United Press.

SMYRNA, Ga., Oct. 20. — Adjutant-General Jack Stoddard of the State Highway Patrol reported today order had been restored to this small mill town where aroused residents staged race demonstrations three successive nights after a Negro confessed a double slaying.

In Cobb County Jail in Marietta were 28 men of the Smyrna vicinity who had been arrested by troopers and deputies as leaders of the violence which including stoning and beating Negroes, wrecking their homes and setting fire to a school. Bond was set at $2500 each.

The demonstrators gathered last night in little muttering knots for the third straight night. There was no chance for concerted action as 60 troopers and an augmented sheriff's force armed with tear gas, were on hand to prevent a large assemblage.

Previously, there had been rumors a mob planned to burn every Negro home in Smyrna and run all Negroes out of town "between midnight and dawn" today.

The trouble started Monday night shortly after Willie Russell, 31-year-old Negro, confessed to Atlanta police he had beaten to death George Washington Camp, 66, and his daughter, Mrs. Christine Pauls, 26, with an ax handle.

Atlanta Ga. Georgian
October 20 ,1938

Three Smyrna Churches Score Demonstration

Action of a group of young men who last week vented their rage on negroes in Smyrna, after the murder of an aged citizen and his daughter by a negro man, was deplored Tuesday in a resolution adopted by three Smyrna churches.

The resolution declared the whole affair "uncalled for and unwarranted" and resulting in "irreparable damage to the community."

It referred to violent actions of a mob which gathered soon after the bodies of George W. Camp aged Cobb county citizen, and his daughter, Mrs. Christine Camp Pauls, were found battered in their home. A negro, Willie Russell was immediately arrested on identification of Mrs. Pauls' 10-year-old son, and now awaits trial.

The resolution follows:

The resolution in full follows:

"Recently a heartbreaking and revolting crime was committed in our community—a crime which tries the soul of every decent person. The person accused of the crime was immediately arrested by the constituted authorities and, according to reports, confessed his guilt. He has been confined in the state prison awaiting trial and punishment for the crime. It is hoped that the courts will act quickly in this case and see that justice is meted out promptly.

"On October 17 and 18, 1938, many residents of the surrounding territory and some of our immediate community gathered in Smyrna and, in violation of the laws of our land, in disregard of the interests of others and in spite of objections and warnings of the police force and local citizens, formed a mob and proceeded to give vent freely to their personal feelings against the negro race. The acts of the mob were flagrant violations of the law and entirely without reason or justification.

"They chased negroes from their homes and from the community, and destroyed or damaged their personal property. They infested the highway and stopped and searched automobiles, trucks and street cars passing through the city. They insulted and intimidated occupants of the cars who dared express resentment of their treatment. They damaged the property of white people. During the night of October 17 the negro schoolhouse was burned—apparently by members of the mob. It was necessary to call in the State Highway Patrol to take charge of the situation.

"The whole affair was uncalled for and unwarranted. Many of our local citizens have suffered financial loss. Many travelers passing through Smyrna were insulted and some had their cars damaged. All of us, and the City of Smyrna, have lost prestige and standing in the eyes of the world because of the affair. All who have suffered in any way from the acts of the mob have been made to suffer unnecessarily and through no fault or responsibility of their own. Our community has suffered irreparable damage from the occurrence.

"Be it resolved—That we believe the above statement is a statement of facts regarding a most disgraceful, disgusting and deplorable affair.

"Be it further resolved, That we believe it incumbent upon us to declare to the world that the main body of citizens of Smyrna did not foment nor aid the mob, but that, on the other hand, was very much opposed to it. The mob consisted very largely of residents of other communities—mostly young men—who took advantage of a bad situation and did things they would not have dared to do individually. We condemn the mob and the mob spirit and will have no part in it nor accept responsibility for it, although we suffer at its hands. It is un-Christian, unlawful, and violates all laws of fairness, justice and reason.

"Be it further resolved, That we extend to the State Highway Patrol our sincere thanks for the efficient manner in which they handled and controlled the situation when they were finally placed in charge.

"Many young men, charged with having taken part in the mob's activities, have been placed in the custody of our courts. Certainly we do not want a single innocent person to suffer, but we do trust that our courts will see that justice is meted out in all cases and that all who may be proven to have incited the mob spirit are punished.

"And be it further resolved, That copies of this resolution be furnished The Cobb County Times, The Marietta Journal and the Atlanta daily papers for publication.

"Adopted October 23, 1938.

"SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH,
"SMYRNA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
"SMYRNA METHODIST CHURCH."

28 Whites Arrested Following 3-Day Reign of Terror in Geor 'aia

Atlanta Constitution 10-24-38 Baltimore, Md.

SMYRNA, Ga. — Twenty-eight white men were arrested in connection with the burning of a colored school, following publication of the alleged confession of a colored man that he had killed a white farmer and his daughter with an ax handle. Deputies indicated that other arrests would follow.

The mob of 500 burned the two-story, ten-room Bethel School in a three-day reign of terror.

News of the murder came to light when Cecil Pauls, 9-year-old son of the dead woman, regained consciousness and made his way to a neighbor's house. He said Willie Drew Russell beat to death his mother and her father with an axe-handle and knocked him unconscious.

Russell Attacked

On Tuesday, Atlanta and Fulton County police reported that Russell said he went to the victim's house to collect a $5 debt. The aged victim hit him with a walking stick and the woman struck him with a baseball bat.

Police listed the dead woman as Mrs. Christine Camp, 26, and her father as George Pauls, 66, Cobb County old-age pensioner.

Russell was arrested on a construction job in Grove Park. Governor Rivers has promised Forrester B. Washington of the Atlanta NAACP that State police and troops will prevent further attacks.

The first rioting occurred on Monday evening when the school was burned to ashes. Innocent colored persons were attacked with sticks and stones.

Halt Traffic

Violence broke loose again on Tuesday night when a rejuvenated band invaded the colored section of the town and stormed houses with stones.

While one group of gangsters was searching street cars and autos, another section of the gang was stoning and chasing colored people from downtown streets.

Marietta, Ga., Journal
October 26, 1938

Smyrna Churches Adopt Resolution Scoring Anti-Negro Demonstrations

Recently a heartbreaking and revolting crime was committed in our community—a crime which tries the soul of every decent person. The person accused of the crime was IMMEDIATELY arrested by the constituted authorities, and according to reports, confessed his guilt. He has been confined in the State Prison awaiting trial and punishment for the crime. It is hoped that the courts will act quickly in this case and see that justice is meted out promptly.

On October 17 and 18, 1938, many residents of the surrounding territory, and some of our immediate community, gathered in Smyrna and in violation of the laws of our land, in disregard of the interests of others, and in spite of objections and warnings of the police force and local citizens formed a mob and proceeded to give vent freely to their personal feelings against the negro race. The acts of the mob were flagrant violations of the law and entirely without reason or justification. They chased negroes from their homes and from the community, and destroyed or damaged their personal property. They infested the highway and stopped and searched automobiles, trucks and street cars passing through the city. They insulted and intimidated occupants of the cars who dared express resentment of their treatment. They damaged the property of white people. During the night of October 17, the negro school house was burned—apparently by members of the mob. It was necessary to call in the State Highway Patrol to take charge of the situation.

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Smyrna Baptist Church.
Smyrna Presbyterian Church
Smyrna Methodist Church.

"You Yellow Rats..."

When a White Daily Newspaper In "Deepest Georgia" Calls White Hoodlums This Gutter Epithet, *IT'S NEWS!*

Turn To Page 2
Second Section

Read for Yourself the flaming and biting indictment of a militant white editor who has refused to "wink" at mob psychology. We believe he voices the sentiment of clean-thinking white people *In Every Section of the Country!*

EXODUS! Residents of Smyrna, Ga., Flee After Three-Day Riot!

SMYRNA, Ga., Nov. 3—In the wake of the three days of rioting here last week, during which several Negroes were beaten up and the Negro school house was burned to the ground, Negro residents have begun deserting this city in disgust and are moving to Marietta. Since there is no school, children parade or play in the streets throughout the day.

Cobb County Times, White Dixie Paper, Tears Off The Lid

EDITOR'S NOTE:—By far the most forceful indictment against "mob terror" in the South is reprinted below. The editorial appeared in the Cobb County Times (Cobb County, Ga.), where the infamous "Smyrna Holocaust" took place.

The editorial, vitriolic and to the point, marks the beginning of a "new day" in race relationships in its section. For whenever the white press takes up the cudgel against lawlessness and mob psychology, aided and abetted by white friends of the Negro, and the better class of whites, in the South, then . . . and not until then . . will the forces of right and justice triumph.

Without further comment, we present "YOU YELLOW RATS."

(An Editorial from The Cobb County Times)

For once in its history The Times feels disinclined—in fact, downright ashamed— to print all the news. . . . But in keeping with a 22-year-old policy of frankness and independence, your county newspaper presents today full summaries of the events of this week, as shameful as they are.

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Briefly what has happened at Smyrna is that a gang of young hoodlums—rats, mobbists, thugs or whatever you wish to call them—for two days violated about every fundamental right that American citizens have. . . .

The Declaration of Independence says that "all men are created free and equal." We wonder how the innocent WHITE MEN and Negroes who were mauled and mistreated by the mob feel about this phrase in the Declaration.

The American Constitution says that private property is sacred. We wonder how the WHITE MEN and WOMEN whose houses and autos were damaged to the extent of several thousand dollars feel about the sanctity of their property.

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There are certain personal rights, privileges and protection to which all private citizens are entitled. We wonder how the WHITE TOURISTS feel about being stopped, intimidated and searched by the mob.

And about now, it's time for one of you cowardly hoodlums, Mr. Mob, to yell, "Oh, yeah. Well, we're going to drive the Negroes out of Cobb county. To hell with your paper!" (That is, of course, if you mobsters can read and *think,* which is extremely doubtful.)

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Well, Mr. Mob, it's your time to get a few plain facts through your thick skulls.

1. The Cobb County Times is posting $100—a hundred iron men, to you—for the conviction of the yellow rats who were responsible for the burning of Bethel schoolhouse and the rioting in Smyrna Tuesday night.

2. Commissioner Charles M. Head, of Cobb county, is planking down $200 for the same purpose . . . and there may be more from other sources.

3. This newspaper represents the good people of Cobb county who stand for law and order in Cobb county and will proceed to vigorously advocate in every possible manner the arrest and trial of every person who played any part in the shameful rioting.

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And now, Mr. Mob, let's get down to cases.

The intelligent people of Cobb county (and you'd be surprised how many there are, Mr. Mob . . . you ignorant fool) are still wondering if you REALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE HURTING THE NEGROES? Fool that you are, you probably thought so.

Let's see if you did.

Thers's the case of Claude T. Osborn, lifelong resident of Smyrna. A white man, mind you. Mr. Osborn has 14 tenant houses. You, Mr. Mob, damaged 11 of them to the extent of, let's say, $500, just to be conservative. Did that hurt the Negroes?

* * *

Thers's the case of P. C. Ragsdale, of Acworth, a WHITE truck driver, who was painfully cut on the arm and mauled when you, Mr Mob, stopped his truck to beat a Negro passenger. The Negroes escaped with much lesser injuries.

There's the case of two aged women tourists whose car was stopped, the window glasses smashed and the door snatched off. Did that hurt the Negroes?

* * *

But now, Mr. Mobster, you probably have your tongue in your cheek and you leer and sneer, "Well, anyhow, we burned their old schoolhouse Monday night. That hurt 'em, I reckon."

The Atlanta papers were polite in their handling of the story . . .
but not so in the Chicago papers. The St. Louis, the New York, the San Francisco, the Riot in Smyrna, Georgia—Mob Mauls Negroes . . . " Ask one Marietta merchant how he felt Tuesday morning when he read the papers in St. Louis, where he had gone quite as usual to buy a stock of goods. What could be tell those St. Louis friends of his?

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Whose schoolhouse was it? It belonged to the Cobb county board of education! This board, in case you and your crazy companions didn't know it, is composed of WHITE MEN.

Whose loss was it? The taxpayers who paid for it and who must rebuild it. And you are not a taxpayer!

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The riots Monday and Tuesday hurt business in Smyrna and Marietta this week. Cobb county received some of the worst adverthing possible—all over America the decent people are wondering about what kind of civilization we have down here. They don't know that you, Mr. Mob, were a small, criminal minority composed of nontaxpayers, nonresidents and just plain nonentities. They don't know that the good citizens of the county—at least 34,700 of the 35,000 inhabitants—were not of the same ilk you were . . . that they think of you in just the same terms we are writing of you.

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That statement just proves what an unmitigated idiot and moron you are, Mr. Mob.

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Oh, yes, Mr. Mobster, Cobb county is for justice. And, so help us, we'll see that YOU GET JUSTICE. We aren't worried about black Willie Russell.' He'll get justice. The law makes full provision for criminals like Willie and—God have mercy on his soul—Willie will pay the penalty without any prodding on the part of the newspapers. . . . But courts, Mr. Mobster, will take care of you, too.

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Lynching is already one of the rarest crimes in the nation and sooner or later mob violence will be an impossibility, a thing of the past, in Cobb county, in Georgia, the South and the Nation.

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The Atlanta papers were polite in their handling of the story . . . but not so in the St. Louis, the New York, the San Francisco, the Chicago papers. Their headlines screamed in huge black type—"Race Riot in Smyrna, Georgia—Mob Mauls Negroes . . . " Ask one Marietta merchant how he felt Tuesday morning when he read the papers in St. Louis, where he had gone quite as usual to buy a stock of goods. What could be tell those St. Louis friends of his?

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impartial justice.

If these persons are guilty of the acts of which they are accused, the upstanding citizens of Cobb county want them to be tried and, if they are convicted they should be sentenced by the courts to the penalties provided by law.

A Disgraceful Outburst

From the Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle

It is a source of shame for Georgians to have to face the indictment of the nation for the protracted and violent racial disorders at Smyrna, Ga., which resulted from the slaying of a white farmer and his daughter by a Negro in Cobb County.

The infuriated mob burned a Negro schoolhouse Monday night, and, their passions still inflamed, wrecked about twenty-five Negro houses and brutally assaulted Negroes taken from automobiles coming from nearby Atlanta on Tuesday night. The disgraceful performance of the mob members was all the more lamentable because the slayer, incarcerated in the Fulton county jail in Atlanta, allegedly had confessed his dastardly crime.

Had it not been for the courage and alertness of state troopers, aided by Cobb county officers, there may have resulted a carnage which which would have put an everlasting and shameful blot on the state of Georgia. Tear gas bombs dispersed the demonstrators, who were unorganized, without a leader, bent on venting their spleen on all and sundry Negroes who happened to cross their path.

It is significant and praiseworthy that even members of the families of the slain farmer and his daughter dispatched a note to Judge J. H. Hawkins at Marietta asserting that it was their wish that the guilty party be tried according to law and that no further violence occur.

The sympathy of the entire state is extended to the good and upright citizens of Smyrna and Cobb county who no part in the disorders, and looked on with horror and repugnance while their fellow townsmen, representing the lower element of the community, wreaked their vengeance, indiscriminately, in a vicious example of passion and race hatred. It is unfortunate indeed that the better element of Smyrna, which reportedly is far in the majority, should have to bear the onus for the sins of this small group of hoodlums.

The perpetrator of the double murder, which could have been done only by a depraved person, is behind the bars, miles from the scene of the crime, and presumably swift justice will be meted out for the brutal assault. It is a pity and a shame that the awful outburst of racial trouble should have resulted because of the crime of a single member of the race.

Improved relations between the races has been noted in the South during the last few years, and this unfortunate and deplorable outburst, isolated as it is, should not be allowed to serve as a setback in the progressive movement to have whites and Negroes live together in the same community in peace and harmony.

Mobster Gets Year Sentence

Guilty Plea Is Entered by Buck Miller Friday

MARIETTA, Ga.—(SNS)—Eighteen of the nineteen white youths indicted this week in connection with the anti-Negro disturbances in Smyrna, Georgia, on the nights of October 18-19, forfeited bonds of $1,000 each Friday by not appearing in court, Superior Judge J. H. Hawkins stated.

Buck Miller, one of the 19 under indictment, entered a plea of guilty and was sentenced to a year in prison. Miller was charged with "chasing an unidentified colored man down the street on the night of October 19."

The indictment also charged Miller with carrying an object "resembling a butcher knife."

Judge Hawkins pointed out that although bonds in each case were technically forfeited, reviews may be asked during the January term of court.

The Cobb county grand jury indicted 13 of the suspects Thursday after having returned true bills against six of the youths on Wednesday.

The charges in the indictments varied from drunkenness and disorderly conduct to running colored people off of street cars and threatening them with knives, rocks and sticks.

The rioting in Smyrna followed closely the brutal killing of a white man and his daughter. Will Russell, also of Smyrna, confessed and has been sentenced to die next month.

The mob of 500 or more persons formed when it was learned that Russell would be kept in Fulton county jail for safe-keeping. Eager to make some one suffer for the crimes the gang started attacking all colored people who ventured through Smyrna by foot, automobile or street car.

Dispersed by State Highway Patrolmen, the mob then went to the colored settlement and burned down the colored school house.

The following night, the mob organized again and returned to colored neighborhoods, stoning houses with rocks and bricks. Most of the colored residents fled the town, escaping to Atlanta and Marietta.

Sentence White Youth As One of Mob Which Chased Negroes In Ga.

MARIETTA, Ga.—Buck Miller, one of 19 white men indicted in connection with racial disorders at Smyrna a month ago was sentenced to a year in prison for "chasing Negroes and leading others in the chase." The sentence was imposed Saturday by Judge J. H. Hawkins in Superior Court after Miller pleaded guilty to the charge.

The other eighteen men indicted with Miller failed to answer in court Friday thereby forfeiting bonds of $1,000 each.

The disorders broke out against Negroes following the slaying of a farmer and his daughter by a Negro who is now under death sentence. A mob descended on the Negro section of town and burned down homes and chased all Negroes before them.

Various Crimes Of Smyrna Disturbances Laid To White Men

Grand Jury Continues Probe Today; Twenty More to Stand Accusation of October Attacks

MARIETTA, Ga.—(SNS)—The Cobb county grand jury Wednesday returned indictments against six of the 26 white persons arrested in connection with the anti-Negro disturbance in Smyrna, Georgia, October 18-19.

The grand jury began investigating the case Tuesday and will continue its probe today.

Attacks made on colored people of Smyrna and their property followed the slaying of a white man and his daughter. The double-slaying was confessed by Willie Russell, also of Smyrna, who has been convicted and sentenced to die in the state electric chair next month.

Those indicted were Broughton Teem, Henry Martin, Buck Miller, M. D. Lewis, Paul Hensley and Robert Hughes.

BOLD CHARGES

The grand jury charged Teem with entering a street car at Fair Oak on the night of October 18, forcing colored people to run to safety. Witnesses said Teem demanded delivery of colored passengers of Conductor Fred Rogers.

The indictment pointed out that Teem entered the car, and Henry Martin, indicted jointly with Teem, stood on the ground with a shotgun over his arm.

Buck Miller was charged with chasing an unidentified colored man down the street on the night of October 19. The indictment revealed that Miller was carrying an object "resembling a butcher knife".

Charges of "malicious mischief and rioting" were returned against M. D. Lewis. He is alleged to have entered a store operated by D. C. Osborn, white, demanding a colored boy who worked in the store.

Charged with molesting two colored men listed as Hoke Howard, of the Georgia Power company, and Claude Bates, pressing club worker, a white youth known as Paul Hensley, was charged with being drunk on the public highway.

Following the brutal double slaying, and the confession by Russell, who was quoted as saying, "I was drunk; I must have been crazy," a mob of more than 500 white youths of Smyrna and nearby took possession of the town, chasing colored people from the street cars, dragging them from automobiles, stoning and rocking their homes and destroying the colored school by fire.

State Highway Patrolmen, and police officials of Smyrna and the deceased man came into a lunch stand operated by her husband at 494 McDaniel street and told John Henry Hollis, who had just purchased a sandwich and had started to leave that nobody was going to leave the place. He is alleged to have pulled out a knife and slashed Hollis who retreated to the rear of the establishment.

Then he is reported to have stabbed Mrs. Laster who was standing in the kitchen. Following this, Johnson is alleged to have lunged at Carl Laster who fired twice, killing him almost instantly. Following the affray, Laster went to Whitehall and Richardson street and called police who arrested him there. He told police that he had left the scene of the shooting because he feared that some of the dead man's friends might try to avenge the killing.

Prior to the shooting Johnson was being sought by Officers Tyson and Rutherford on a robbery charge, after Eugene Henley of 404 Glenn street reported that Johnson and "Buddie" Mitchell had held him up and took $1 in cash. Later a man listed as Amos Mitchell, alias "Buddie" of 602 Whitehall Terrace was arrested and identified by Henley.

Man Who Caused Smyrna Riot Is Sentenced To Die

Georgia Justice Acts in Rapid-Fire Order as Willie Russell Prepares for March to Electric Chair, Dec. 9.

MARIETTA, Ga., Nov. 23—(Special)—Convicted in Circuit Court here of the murder on October 16, of George Camp, aged farmer, and his daughter Mrs. Christine Pauls, which was followed by rioting in Smyrna located near the scene of the crime in which many Negroes were beaten and thousands of dollars worth of property destroyed by a mob of white men and youths — Willie Russell has been sentenced to death in the electric chair on December 9.

Russell was brought here for trial from Atlanta where he had been taken for safekeeping, and though local officers were reinforced by State troopers the court house while the trial was in progress, no attempts at further disorder made their appearance. After the rioting during which a colored schoolhouse was burned and other property damaged and destroyed, the sheriff and his deputies arrested 29 white men on charges of participating in the lawlessness. All but two or three were released on bond pending action by the county grand jury which is now in session.

Cobb Grand Jury To Ponder Mob Cases Today

MARIETTA, Ga.—(SNS)—Today, rioting indictments will be sought against 26 white youths arrested for mob action recently as an aftermath of the slaying of 65-year-old George Washington Camp and his 24-year-old daughter, Mrs. Christine Pauls, both white. The Cobb county grand jury will ponder the case, Blue Ridge Superior Court Circuit Solicitor General H. G. Vandiviere announced Monday night.

The solicitor general's announcement came shortly after conviction Monday of Will Russell on murder charges in the case.

ELECTROCUTION DEC. 9

Russell was sentenced to die in the electric chair December 9 for the dual slaying. After a jury's debate lasting one hour, Judge J. H. Hawkins of the Blue Ridge circuit, meted out the sentence.

The double slaying, which caused a "reign of terror" for several days in the community in which it occurred, took place in neighboring Smyrna.

Little nine-year-old Cecil Pauls, white, son of the murdered woman, was the chief witness for the prosecution. Beaten at the time his grandfather and mother were slain, the boy regained consciousness after 24 hours and later furnished officers with their most incriminating evidence against the colored man.

ADMITTED INTOXICATION

Russell is reported to have made an unsworn statement in which he admitted being intoxicated at the time of the fatal incident. Officers who arrested Russell in Atlanta say he confessed the crime.

Not only did the Pauls boy relate the gruesome details of the dual tragedy shortly after coming to his senses again following the beating he received, but it was also he who had identified Russell as the slayer.

White Leader Of Smyrna Riot Gets Year And A Day In Prison

Buck Miller Guilty of Unlawful Violence—Other 18 Defendants Forfeit $1000 Bonds.

MARIETTA, Ga., Dec. 1—(Special)—Buck Miller, 23, one of 19 white men indicted in connection with the indiscriminate attacks on Negroes and destruction of property by a mob of white men and youths, that occurred during race disorders at the nearby town of Smyrna last month, pleaded guilty here Tuesday to unlawful violence, and was sentenced to imprisonment for a year and a day by Superior Court Judge J. H. Hawkins.

The other 18 defendants forfeited bonds of $1,000 each by their failure to appear in court, but it was announced by Judge Hawkins that pleas in the cases might possibly be granted at the next term of court which will convene in January. The disorders at Smyrna followed the murder of a Cobb county planter and his daughter. A Negro man, convicted of the crime is now under sentence of death.

Ga. Race Riot Gang Indicted

(By Special Correspondent)

MARIETTA, Ga. — Seventeen white men were indicted on Thursday, on terrorism charges by the Cobb County grand jury while a colored suspect in a double murder which inflamed Smyrna on October 18 and 19 received a death sentence.

Twenty-six white men were held on suspicion following the rioting and mass attack on colored citizens and their homes. The only school for colored children was burned to the ground.

Forced to Flee

Houses were stoned and residents were forced from street cars and autos and made to run into the night during the disturbance. The trials for the suspects are expected to be held during the January term of the court.

The riot was the aftermath of the double murder of an aged white farmer, George W. Camp, and his daughter, Christine Pauls, 26, for which Willie Russell of Cobb County is under sentence to die on December 9.

The indicted men were charged with acts of violence and charges ranging from "disorderly conduct and drunkeness to chasing colored people with instruments resembling butcher knives."

Riots – 1938

Georgia

They Fled When Smyrna, Ga. Mob Spread

Leaving behind furniture and clohting, these Smyrna people fled the "riot town" early Wednesday and took up lodging at the home of a friend in Marietta. Reading, left to right, they are: Mrs. Eliza Johnson, holding her 6-year-old daughter, Bettie, and Mrs. Johnson's son, Willie, 18, holding his niece, Emogene Davis, 21 months old. The entire Johnson family of ten is residing at present at the home of Mrs. Ann'e Lee McAfee, 415 Lemons street, Marietta, Ga.—(SNS Staff Photo)

Daily World 10-20-38 Atlanta, Ga.

Atlanta Affected By Riot?

Daily World 10-20-38

Wednesday night in Atlanta, several colored persons who said they were told to "go home" by city policemen patrolling the Westside district became indignant. Several of these persons called the Atlanta World, declaring that the Smyrna incident must have been the outgrowth of the sudden police action.

A member of the State Highway Patrol told the Atlanta World early this morning that "there had been no trouble whatsoever" during the night in Smyrna, Georgia.

AGE OF SMYRNA MOB MEMBERS DISTURBING

Daily World 10-20-38

By JESSE O. THOMAS

The spectacular manifestations of violence in Smyrna, Georgia, following close upon the heels of the alleged confession of Willie Drewry Russell, who was accused of the most hideous crime of putting to death two people and seriously wounding the third Saturday night a few miles from Smyrna, have enveloped the entire Negro section of that community. If and when Russell is proven guilty of this atrocious and unprovoked murdering of these innocent people, no element of our population is more anxious that the orderly conduct of the law shall take its course than is true of the colored citizens.

There can be no basis of anxiety with regard to Russell escaping punishment, if found guilty. All of the police power of the state is at the disposal of public officials as well as private citizens whenever and wherever needed for the purpose of preventing any escape on the part of the accused. Children in the kindergarten know what the verdict will be when the defendant is brought to trial if the evidence educed in any measure supports the indictment.

"MOB TECHNIQUE" NATURAL

We have been taught to expect innocent Negroes to be brutalized and terrorized by mobs whenever a crime of this nature is committed and white persons are victims thereof. "White supremacy" demands that the "mob technique" shall be employed and that any and all Negroes shall be made to realize the extent to which they are insecure and unprotected by the regular constituted legal machinery. If the mob had been led by a minister, superintendent of Sunday School or deacon of the church, and followed by an army of "Christian soldiers" we would not have been surprised. We have been taught that whatever a white person may do to Negroes and regardless of the position he may occupy in our community life, that the mere injustice to Negroes in no wise impeaches his moral integrity or spiritual leadership.

SCHOOL BURNING NOT STRANGE

The burning of the Negro school and the destruction of Negro property, the physical violence done to innocent men, women and children is no strange procedure under the circumstances. "White supremacy" demands that this course be followed. Conduct of this kind, of course, by the Japanese or Mussolini's Black Shirts would be an occasion for fervent sermons of denunciation from American pulpits. We have been taught not to expect a whisper from our pulpits concerning what is happening to Negroes nightly in a community of Smyrna.

MOB YOUTHFUL

The only thing about this situation that is distressing is the fact that, according to General Stodard, "the rioters were gathered from all parts of the county and were strikingly youthful." Colored people have somehow entertained a hope that this type of mob violence would gradually disappear with the passing off the scene of the members of the past generation and the coming into the picture of their successors who have had a chance to become more nationally and internationally minded as result of radio and other means of communication.

We had hoped that the lifting of the mass culture above sectional level would offer some restraint. This demonstration to the contrary is most depressing and disheartening. Mark Etheridge, the managing editor of the Courier Journal, said at the Kentucky State Conference of Social Work the other day that "economic poverty may be the result of impoverished culture in other respects." The President says that the South is the nation's economic problem number one.

Mobsters Face Trial November

Daily World 10-22-38

Trial of Murder Suspect Also

Atlanta

Slated in Term

The 33 white suspects jailed this week on charges of taking part in the anti-Negro riot at Smyrna, Georgia, Monday and Tuesday nights will be tried in Marietta during the court term which opens November 7.

A few of those alleged to have taken active part in the outbreaks are out on bond. Bonds for the suspects were fixed at $2,500 each.

The mob violence was the outgrowth of the double slaying late Saturday night of a Smyrna white woman and her aged father.

Willie Drew Russell, 31, of Smyrna, was arrested after he is alleged to have admitted committing the brutal crimes.

If he is tried in Cobb county, his trial may come up about the same time the white mob suspects face the judge. The white youths still in jail are being held on charges of disorderly conduct and rioting.

The Suspect

WILLIE DREW RUSSELL
—31-year-old construction worker who is alleged to have confessed the brutal slaying of two Smyrna, Georgia white persons. He is being held in the new Tattnall prison and has been promised a "fair trial in Marietta." Mob violence in Smyrna, Monday and Tuesday was the outgrowth of the twin killings.

31 Suspects Held In Smyrna Mobbing; To Raise Reward Money

"Riot Town" Quiet With More Arrests Promised; Early Trial Predicted

Cobb county police officials reported Thursday night that a total of 31 white suspects had been jailed in connection with the rioting in Smyrna, Monday and Tuesday nights.

Sheriff E. M. Legg, of Cobb county, said others may be arrested today. The sheriff stated that approximately 40 warrants had been issued as a result of the mob violence which resulted in colored people being stoned and forced out of town, the burning of the Negro school, and the rocking of houses in the colored sections.

SUSPECTS UNDER $2,500 BONDS

The arrested suspects are being held under $2,500 bond each. "Malicious mischief" is the charge booked against the jailed men, most of them less than 25 years old.

No further uprisings in Smyrna had been reported to the sheriff Thursday, he stated.

TRIAL SETTING CONSIDERED

The Cobb county grand jury will meet the first Monday in November, but because Willie Drew Russel, 31, is alleged to have confessed killing a white woman and her aged father, believed the direct cause of the rioting, his trial may be set without grand jury consideration.

The two white persons were beaten to death in their home near Smyrna Saturday night. The woman's boy who was knocked in the head with a heavy object, told of the attacks early Monday morning after gaining consciousness.

Named by the injured white boy as the double slayer, Russell was arrested Monday on a construction job near Atlanta.

According to Atlata police, Russell confessed, stating that after he went to the white man's house to collect a $5 debt, the man and his daughter attacked him with a baseball bat and walking stick.

Russell is being held in the new Tattnall prison for safekeeping. The mob began organizing Monday afternoon when it was reported that the suspect had admitted killing the two people.

MOB ACTED IN REVENGE

Unable to get their hands on Russell, the white mob of more than 500 white people forced colored people from streetcars and automobiles, Monday and Tuesday nights, beating them and hurling sticks at them.

The school was burned down Monday night after state patrolmen drove the mob from the highway. The highway officers used tear gas bombs Tuesday night to disperse the mob after the gang had stoned practically every colored resident in Smyrna.

COLORED SMYRNANS FLED

Nearly all of the colored Smyrnans fled the city, most of them fleeing to Marietta.

At present $300 in rewards has been offered for conviction of the parties who actually set the school on fire and attacked the colored people. Commissioner C. M. Head, who posted $200 of the reward money, said he would make an effort to get the state to raise it to $500.

State Patrol, Cobb county and Smyrna officers kept a watchful eye in the little "riot town" Thursday.

Macon Ga Telegraph
October 21, 1938

Good Work at Smyrna

The attitude of the better element of Cobb county toward the Smyrna mob which burned a Negro school house and damaged 24 Negro homes is shown by the offer of a $100 reward by Editor Otis Brumby of the Cobb County Times for the arrest of the perpetrators.

Judge Hawkins of the superior court of that county urged Governor Rivers to call out the national guard and both are to be commended for the promptness with which they co-operated with the local police.

This outbreak, in reprisal against the Negro groups of the community because of the murder of an aged citizen and his daughter by a Negro, was nipped in the bud and the authorities soon had the situation well in hand, but it is more than probable that if prompt steps had not been taken the mob spirit might have flamed still higher and Georgia would have contributed again toward the blackening of the comparatively good record of the year in the matter of lynchings.

Thus far, according to the records kept at Tuskeegee Institute, there have been but three clear cases of lynchings in the South this year. Unhappily, one of these was in Georgia. Another case in Mississippi seems to have been the shooting of a Negro who barricaded himself, well supplied with guns and ammunition, and was killed while resisting arrest.

Last year there were only eight lynchings in the country and even that record will have been more than cut in half unless we put another blot on the record before 1939.

The politicians who are sponsoring an anti-lynching bill in congress care little for the facts, but at least if we continue to reduce the number of deaths by mob violence here in the South, the advocates of that measure will be revealed all the more clearly as politicians and not sincere reformers or true friends to the Negro race.

Riots - 1938

LAST HOUSTON MARTYR FREED FROM PRISON

Kansas City, Mo., Apr. 22.- Stewart W. Philips, the last of the "Houston Martyrs", the colored soldiers who were imprisoned because of their resentment against the treatment accorded them by Houston, Texas, citizens during the war, was freed from Leavenworth penitentiary April 19. Press Service of the N.A.A.C.P. New York, N.Y. 4-22-38

Philips, overjoyed at his release, sent the following telegram to Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, in New York City:

"Just freed this morning. Am overjoyed and my appreciation knows no bounds. Will write later. Thanks a million."

It is a coincidence that Philips should be sending his good news from Kansas City, for the campaign to release these men was the high point of the annual conference of the N.A.A.C.P. held here in 1923. A feature of the conference was a pilgrimage of all the delegates to Leavenworth prison, near here, to visit the men and pledge them support until everyone was out from behind the bars. This week that pledge was redeamed.

The N.A.A.C.P. thus ends its long continued and steady campaign for the pardon or parole of the men whom all colored people regard as martyrs, but whom the law branded as rioters. The Association never ceased activity with each new President and Secretary of War. Philips would have been paroled years ago except that he escaped and was a free, but hunted, man for five years. He finally gave himself up and returned to prison so he could win a parole and enjoy his freedom in peace. His escape counted against his record and therefore he was the last to be released.

The Houston riot resulted in 1917 when the 24th Infantry were transferred from California to Houston during the World War. The Texas, and particularly the Houston police force, resented the presence of Negro soldiers. Insults and persecution were heaped upon the men whenever they came to town from camp and the police force disregarded the military police and arrested and beat up soldiers on the slightest provocation. Finally, the anger of the army men reached the boiling point and some of them went into Houston under arms and a miniature pitched battle ensued.

There are still many disputes today over what took place and who was to blame. The records and newspaper accounts indicate that many of the white officers over the colored soldiers sympathized deeply with them and did everything possible within the army code to help them. But the higher command was hostile.

In 1917, immediately following the Houston Riot, the N.A.A.C.P. sent an investigator to the scene who reported to the Board of Directors and whose findings were published in The Crisis for November, 1917. The N.A.A.C.P. also employed a local white attorney to defend the men. On December 11, 1917, thirteen members of the 24th Infantry were summarily executed. Later sixteen others were condemned to die. Thereupon, the Association gathered 12,000 signatures to a petition which was presented to President Wilson on February 19, 1918, protesting against further executions without review by the President. Following the presentation of this petition, on September 3, President Wilson, after review, commuted ten death sentences, and affirmed six, the six men being subsequently executed. In 1921, the Association gathered 50,000 signatures to a petition which was presented to President Harding, asking for pardon for the colored soldiers still in prison. As a consequence, several life sentences were reduced to terms of fifteen years, making five of the men eligible for release. Now, twenty-one years after the Riot, the last soldier has been released.

Historical - (Houston.)

Not to be Imposed Upon

The release of the last of the soldiers imprisoned for rioting in Houston, Texas has taken place. With the passage of time better judgment prevails with which to measure their deed and its punishment.

These men, members of one of the four Negro regiments with a long and honorable record for bravery and efficiency, were stationed near the Texas metropolis back in the days when Theodore Roosevelt was president. Unfortunately the state of public opinion in the place at that time made their uniform no protection against prejudice. Finally they struck back with the deadly efficiency to which they had been trained. Then the government punished them. The release of this last prisoner, closing the incident, makes it possible to look back at the experience and see where the handling of a similar situation could be improved.

The army and navy are the nation's intelligent response to the threat of war. Their effectiveness depends upon the individual soldier and sailor. He might be like the Chinese of the old era, a soldier who fled on the approach of the enemy. Or he might be a Chinese of the new era who stands up to the invading Japs and dies if need be.

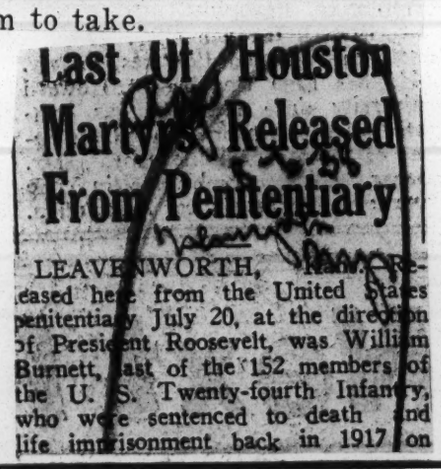
Between these two kinds of soldiers, the difference is one of spirit. These Negro soldiers in Houston refused to be insulted and mistreated. As individuals before donning their United States uniform, they were accustomed to the treatment which the South was in the habit of giving Negroes. But uniform on and rifle in hand, they would not take it. It is our sober judgment that they were more credit to the defense forces of their country for having that will to resent imposition.

White men who go into Africa take for granted that the natives will be obedient to their will. All the might of superior knowledge and modern arms has been employed to give them that domination. It was a similar feeling that was being expressed in Houston. The difference was that the Negroes, being soldiers, refused to be imposed upon.

Conditions in this country have improved to the point that nowhere, even in the South, would similar indignities be attempted upon Negroes in the army uniform. But if they are again, the army, from its chief, the President, down through all the ranks, should not forget the circumstances which led to the resentment. In civil life, the "unwritten law" excuses many an act which, strictly speaking, breaks the law. The juries in such cases take the position that the good of society is above the letter of the law.

Apply the same logic to the Negro soldier when he is the target of prejudice! The nation dependent for defense upon the high spirit of the man in uniform must expect him to act like a man at all times.

In saying this we urge no new policy. Everywhere throughout this country where garrisons are maintained, it is true today and always has been true that soldiers are not punished meticulously for infractions of the ordinary rules of conduct. Their spirit is the first consideration. If so much is conceded generally where the provocation is small, how much more should these Negro soldiers have been forgiven for an outbreak which followed studied and long continued harassment! The Houston riot has taught the prejudiced public that there is a limit to what Negroes will take. It should teach the government that there is a limit to what it asks them to take.



Last Of Houston Martyrs Released From Penitentiary

LEAVENWORTH, Kans.—Released here from the United States penitentiary July 20, at the direction of President Roosevelt, was William Burnett, last of the 152 members of the U. S. Twenty-fourth Infantry, who were sentenced to death and life imprisonment back in 1917 on charges of rioting in Houston, Texas.

Of the original "Houston Martyrs" imprisoned in 1917, thirteen were summarily hanged, and six executed after a review of their case by President Wilson. The N. A. A. C. P. has fought the case from the beginning.

Following the Kansas N. A. A. C. P. convention of 1924, the organization organized a nation-wide protest campaign for the release of the fifty-four soldiers then in prison. Burnett was among those whose terms were reduced to 19 years by President Coolidge. He later was paroled from 1924 to 1936, when he had to return to prison because of a parole infraction, and remained at Leavenworth until the President had him released. He had served eight years, three months and eleven days of his original sentence, when he was freed.

Riots - 1938

Indiana

MAYOR ORDERS INVESTIGATION IN NEAR RIOT

Promises Punishment Of Persons Exposed As Troublemakers

7-9-38

GARY, July 8—Pressing the investigation of the near-riot in Glen Park last Wednesday night, the county officials learned that the victim, Mrs. Harry Nehring, 37, of 3867 Washington, who was shot and critically injured by a stray bullet, is showing signs of recovery.

Her physician, Dr. James W. White, said that definite improvement was noticed following a blood transfusion recently given her. Her sister, Mrs. Leon Secard of Kankakee, Ill., donated the blood.

In sifting the causes which precipitated the near-riot it was noticed that trouble had been anticipated. Mayor L. B. Clayton has asked the police force to cooperate in every way.

Admitting he had heard reports of young men throwing eggs and ripe tomatoes at passing cars, there was an effort to stop it, but to no avail.

Mayor Clayton has warned the public that as long as he is mayor in the city of Gary, that there will be no riot.

"I will use drastic measures and will proceed with every authority of the law to punish anyone convicted of any attempt to start a ," he declared.

7-10-38

GARY, July 7—Local police toured the colored section here, Sunday warning its residents to stay off the streets, and to temporarily avoid assembling in groups, as racial bitterness reached fever heat here following the death of Mrs. Florence Nehring, 37-year-old white woman.

Mrs. Nehring died of a bullet wound sustained June 22 following a Joe Louis victory demonstration at Broadway and Ridge road. She was allegedly struck by a stray bullet fired by one of three Negroes who were attempting to protect themselves from a gang of whites who had pelted their car with a barrage of bricks and stones.

7-10-38

Negro Admits Firing Shot

Joseph Pitts, 133 W. 25th avenue, is being held on a charge of murder along with the other two occupants of the car. Pitts is said to have admitted he fired the shot which fatally wounded Mrs. Nehring.

The altercation arose when the white youths apparently smarting over the decisive victory of Louis over Schmeling, resented the colored youths' victory celebration by bombarding their car with stones and later overturning it. Police and Legionnaires averted serious trouble at the time Mrs. Nehring was shot, it was reported.

Mayor L. B. Clayton, who urged that police cooperate in every way to avoid clashes between the races as an outgrowth of the unfortunate affair, warned the public that as long as he is in office as mayor there will be no riot. Said he:

"I will use drastic measures and will proceed with every authority of the law to punish anyone convicted of any attempts to start a riot."

FEAR RIOT IN GARY AS FIGHT VICTIM DIES

Negroes Warned to Stay Off Streets

Riots - 1938

Maryland

ONE DEAD IN WAKE OF MIXUP

Say Policeman Was Insulted By One

SNOW HILL, Md.—Unemploy ed Colored persons were warnec Monday night by Mayor John O Byrd to get out of town as the result of a Saturday night race riot in which one colored perso was killed, another wounded and twenty-one arrested.

Killing Roused Group

Police Chief W. Rhodes Rew who said he was forced to fire on Frank Bishop, 19, after a group of Negroes insulted a police officer, was exonerated in his death by a coroner's jury.

Mayor Byrd announced:

"We have secured the coopera tion of Worcester County authorities and are preparing tonight to take an official census of all Negro residents in Snow Hill and vicinity. Those that we find are not employed in Snow Hill will be given a choice of going to the House of Correction on vagrancy charges or of getting out of town and its vicinity at once.

"If necessary we will take most of them to the Virginia line from where most of them came."

About 900 colored workers come to this Eastern Shore town every year for the potato and canning seasons. The canneries closed last week, they said.

Riots - 1938

Michigan.
6

RIOT

Police Are Called To Halt Crowd

Daily Worker

Hurl Bricks Through Windows Of Store After Story Spreads

8-19-38

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — Police were summoned Saturday night to disperse an angry mob of race citizens who had gathered before a shoe store on Davison near Goddard Street. The Jewish proprietor of the store was the intended victim of the crowd. He was accused by a colored girl employe of beating her.

As the word went around the neighborhood, people gathered from all direction and hurled bricks through the windows when the man refused to make an appearance.

The riot squad turned out and escorted the proprietor home after an attempt to break up the mob had failed. The angry crowd threatened to "get him" if he ever showed his face in the store again.

This was the second such incident in the last month, the other occurring when a card was found placed in a window bearing the inscription, "No N—r allowed".

The police forced the owners of the property to remove the sign, and laid the blame on a group of misbehaving boys.

Riots — 1938. Pennsylvania.

Cops Quell 3 Day Race Riot In Pittsburgh

Many Arrested, Injured White Mob Flees Before Negroes

7-21-38

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—A three-day race riot that rivalled the "famous" Philadelphia Ridge avenue clash of a few years ago, resulted in serious injury to scores of white and colored citizens of this city, last Wednesday Thursday and Friday.

The smoldering ill feeling broke out last Wednesday night, in sporadic street fights. Thursday night groups of armed white and colored youths roamed the district and in various clashes eight were injured and 17 arrested.

Police, however, restored order early last Friday. But only after a detective and a colored man had been wounded by gunfire and forty more persons had been arrested.

In another outbreak in the northside's West Park—where police say the ill feeling between the whites and Negroes arose over the use of recreational facilities—one man's skull was fractured.

According to reports, last Thursday night's outbreak started in the Lawrenceville district when a colored youth attempted to dance with a white girl at a dance sponsored by the City Bureau of Recreation.

As a consequence, all available police reserves and 14 traffic officers were pressed into patrol duty as numerous gang fights threatened. Thousands of persons milled through West Park and vicinity, center of the trouble, from early evening throughout the night.

It was during this demonstration that Negroes fired into a group of white men charging towards them up a side street. City Detective Wanger was wounded as he stepped from a squad car.

He and another patrolman returned the fire. Dixon, 20, was found later in the hallway of a nearby home with bullets in both legs.

More than five riot calls were sounded during the night. Police reported that in one instance a mob of at least 500 white men was dispersed.

——A Colored Judge——

Orangeburg, S. C., Times & Demo.
July 23, 1938

RACIAL FRICTION IN THE U. S.

The United States has several vexatious problems, centering around differences between races. On the Pacific Coast, the presence of many Japanese raise troublesome questions. In the Southwest, Mexican laborers cause friction. In the South, Negroes and Whites have to adjust themselves to actual conditions. In Metropolitan areas of the North and Midwest, the presence of a large number of Negroes and foreigners often leads to complications.

While it is a common assumption that race trouble exists only in the South, there are unfortunate occurrences in other sections. For example, one has only to call attention to the recent race riot in Pittsburgh, Pa., where two men were shot and forty arrested in two "wild nights of rioting between races."

Press accounts tell of "smoldering ill-feelings" which broke out in sporadic street fights between White and Negro youths. At one time, several thousand persons were lined up on two streets, the Whites on one side and the Negroes on the other. During the night, bands of White and Negro youths roamed the streets, which were the scenes of many clashes.

Serious trouble was averted in Pittsburgh because the city had available numerous police officers to cover the three-mile area where the disturbances began. If the same situation had arisen in a rural area, the consequences would have been much more serious.

One police inspector said that the trouble started in a swimming pool and grew "little by little." Another asserted that the outbreak began "when a Negro youth attempted to dance with a White girl at a dance sponsored by the City Bureau of Recreation." Matters grew worse quickly and it took all available policemen to clear the area of roving bands which threatened violence to each other.

The Pittsburgh race riot received very little attention in the nation's newspapers. Candor compels the admission that if the affair had occurred in the South, it would have been headlined from coast to coast. In Pennsylvania, it should be noted, a drastic state law prevents any discrimination between the races in public places. Apparently, the law does not prevent situations that engender ill-feeling between the races.

The Pittsburgh riot is not the only recent example of race trouble. In two Southern states, a few weeks ago, Negroes have been lynched. There is no excuse for such a crime. Public sentiment in this country, including the South, condemns lynching and public sentiment, in the main, is the only force that will put an end to such barbarism.

Racial antipathies are a problem throughout the world. The situation that creates ill-feeling and engenders strife are conditions which must be met by the people in the areas affected. They can rarely be helped by legislative fiat or the officious meddling of those who reside in other places.

Riots-1938

Virginia.

Whites Responsible for Louis Victory Disorders In Richmond

Melee Started When White Autoist Runs Down Girl, 4 others Citizens Move To Heal Breach

Editorial on Page 10

Special to Journal and Guid

RICHMOND, Va.—The sensational victory of Joe Louis world's heavyweight champion over Max Schmeling, contender for the coveted honor in Yankee Stadium last Wednesday night and events immediately following the radio announcement of the triumph of Louis over his conqueror two years ago in record breaking time have been the absorbing topic of conversation here since that eventful night of Wednesday, June 22.

The hastily arranged house parties, impromptu parades, husky hand shakes, and burdened telephone wires were only incidental to the demonstration staged on North Second Street between Clay and Leigh Streets and the one staged in the West End at the corner of Lambardy Street and Idlewood Ave. When the demonstration subsided the streets reminded one of a dump pile.

Tin cans, garbage containers, broken glass, old automobile tires, brick bats, empty ABC bottles and every conceivable type of debris furnished mute testimony that the demonstration had been hilarious and of hair-raising proportions. Several automobiles, trolley cars and buses together with their passengers were marooned, and when they finally emerged from the affected areas they showed unmistakeable signs of a severe bombing.

When the disorder had about spent itself, the mayor, director of public safety and the chief of police led a detachment of heavily armed police officers to the scene and the immense crowd which blocked all traffic, pedestrian and automobile alike, was dispersed and the street was quiet again.

WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE

A thorough investigation by an eye witness to the affray, not more than fifteen persons actually participated in the attack on automobiles and their occupants. Around two thousand observers crowded and blocked the sidewalks but had no part in the assaults upon persons nor in the acts of vandalism committed.

A prominent citizen of this community who witnessed the demonstration from start to finish was asked why he and others likeminded did not make an effort to stop the lawlessness in the street.

He answered that about three years ago, when an effort was made to add Negro police to the force, the movement was opposed and finally defeated by the mayor and the chief of police, although it had the sanction and endorsement of two of the judges of criminal courts of this city. The reason given by the mayor and chief of police was that Negro police officers were not needed since the present all-white police force had the situation well in hand. Continuing, the citizen said that if Negro police were not needed in Richmond to reduce the crime rate, certainly Negro citizens unarmed with the authority of the law should not hazard bodily harm in quelling a disturbance which had every possibility of growing to dangerous proportions.

WHITE MAN RUNS DOWN

Ten minutes after the fight results were known, when a reliable observer drove through Second street; the crowd had not gathered and the only evidence that a celebration was in the making was a group of small boys and girls marching up and down the street beating tin cans and carrying banners. Fifteen minutes later the street was one teeming mass of joyful humanity. Automobiles were unable to pass through the crowd.

The gang thought to be largely responsible for the disorder indulged in pranks until a white man, driving a car, ran down a 13 year old colored girl, injuring her seriously and hurting four other Negroes near the corner of Second and Leigh Street.

Then bedlam broke loose. Thereafter other cars piloted by white persons were stopped and both cars and drivers were treated to very rough treatment.

It is said by many that theis incident ignited the spark which set the lawlessness into motion. Others claim that the absence of police officers from the scene of disturbance until it had practically abated was the chief contributing cause of the trouble.

The West End happening is reported to have been an indirect result of the recent mass arrest of 52 customers of a West End Beer Garden. The Rev. R. S. Anderson recently held a mass meeting protesting the action of the police in this case and funds are now being raised to institute civil suits against the offending officers since a remedy has been denied by the director of public safety and the chief of police.

From another source comes the questionable opinion that the acquittal in the Henrico Circuit Court of a young white man for raping a colored girl had stirred Negroes. The man admitted in detail the story of the girl but maintained that his relationship with her was with her consent.

DEPLORE INCIDENT

Led by Dr. Gordon B. Hancock who is now suggesting that the Joe Louis soft ball team be brought to Richmond in order to mend the breach in racial relations caused by the alleged riot, a number of prominent citizens immediately voiced their disapproval of the conduct of the celebrants. Among them are Dr. J. M. Tinsley, president of the local branch NAACP; Dr. R. H. Johnson, pastor of Sharon Baptist Church; Attorney James T. Carter, president of the Southern Aid Society of Virginia and dean of the Negro bar in Richmond.

One observer declared that he could see no sense in indicting all of the Negroes of Richmond because of the unlawful acts of a few. He said he did not favor statements or meetings participated in by Negro leaders because an effort to apologize for the action of criminals can be construed as a responsibility for their conduct. He could have had in mind the statement of Mayor Bright which has angered local citizens. The statement read: "I am astonished to learn of this outrageous conduct on the part of our Negro population. More has been done by it to damage inter-race goodwill than anything in my memory. It was general in character and participated in by so many thousands upon thousands that it is astonishing.

ANGRY MAYOR DEFIES CRITIC

Edward S. Strong, representative of the Southern Negro Youth Conference gave a public statement. In reply to the letter sent him by Mr. Strong, the mayor employed strong language, unusual when the chief executive of a city is replying to courteous letters from a group of citizens.

His reply which was received ten minutes after he had received the messenger-carried letter of Strong reads as follows:

"I don't care a continental damn about your protest. You should spend your time in protesting the outrageous conduct of riotous mobs of your brother citizens."

The Strong letter to Mayor Bright assigns an additional motive for the outburst. Mr. Strong criticized the broadcast over WRTD before the fight last Wednesday of the round by round description of the 1936 Louis-Schmeling battle. His criticism of the Mayor follows:

"tI is indeed astonishing when the Mayor of this city accuses thousands of Negro citizens of a riot which never occurred. Mr. Mayor, we heard not a word from you when your police brutally beat and illegally arrested nearly 50 Negroes at Lombardy and Cary Streets a month ago. We suggest that thorough investigation be made where all of the facts are presented before broad accusations are placed against an entire people."

"It is only natural that the oppressed Negro people were jubilant by the victory of Joe Louis over the Facist Schmeling.

"The victory of Louis over Schmeling represents a distinct international gain for interracial understanding because it struck a blow at the mythical Nazi theories of racial superiority.

Lawyer J. T. Carter declared the "unfortunate incidents are to be deplored by all law-abiding citizens."

"Without knowing who precipitated them," he added, "it is impossible to say who are the responsible or guilty parties. But bearing in mind the cordial relations between the races in this community, I cannot entertain the belief that they were attributed to racial antipathy, but merely to the reaction of the adherents of one or the other of the participants in the fight who took no time to reflect upon the damaging effect of their conduct. I think the matter should be carefully studied and measures adopted to prevent a possible recurrence."

It was learned that police who rushed to the scene had tear gas and machine guns in their automobiles ready for use if needed. Officers made only five arrests for disorderly conduct, directing their attention mainly to keeping traffic moving in the congested areas.

Several leaders said they believed the "riot" could have been prevented by Negro policemen and said the incident served to strengthen the campaign among some white and Negro leaders for the appointment of such for duty in Jackson Ward.

Typical comment was that of Rev. Roger H. Johnson, pastor of the Sharon Baptist Church, who declared that the police, "should have remembered, past experiences in connection with the local repercussions of Joe Louis' fistic combats, could have prevented the unfortunate and disgraceful spectacle."

"I unhesitatingly disapprove the disgraceful conduct of those whose foolish acts disturbed the peace, harmony and racial goodwill of this community," the Rev. Johnson said in his statement last night. "A victory or a defeat of Joe Louis should not be an occasion for thoughtless and irresponsible persons to make serious trouble for us all.

"The Negro, so often the victim of passions and prejudice manifested in ruthless brutality, patent injustice and the damnable lynch spirit, can ill afford to employ the tactics of the mob," he added.

From Colonel John A. Cutchins, Director of Public Safety, came the emphatic statement. "This sort of thing will not happen here again."

"Stern measures will be taken in the future to forestall such an unreasonable display of exuberance," Director Cutchins declared. "Future happenings of this type will be prevented, if it is necessary to call out the entire police force and even add special officers."

Before Louis' fight with Max Baer, Colonel Cutchins said, he is going to call Negro leaders to confer with him on plans to provide for a reasonable demonstration, for which there could not possible be any objection.

The Mayor is very unpopular with the vast majority of Negroes of Richmond because of his expressed unfriendly attitude to them on a number of occasions.

INTERRACIAL GROUP MEETS

A meeting of the Richmond Committee on Interracial Cooperation was held last Friday in St. Paul's P. E. Parish house. The meeting lasted four hours. Speeches were made by a number of white and colored citizens. Since, however, it was a confidential meeting, no report of the proceedings will be published.

The Findings Committee will make its report public at an early date. The present indications are that with the publishing of this report, finis will be written upon an unprecedented incident which shook Richmond from stem to stern. It is being rumored that secret reprisals are already being made by the strategy of taking jobs from Negroes and replacing these people with whites. These rumors could not be confirmed.

Police Toss Tear Gas In Roanoke, Va.

Handle NYC Fight Fans Differently

Special to Journal and Guide

ROANOKE, Va.—The vast difference between an efficient, well organized, and sensibly directed police force like that in New York City and the police force of Roanoke was vividly pictured here last week by the contrasting methods with which they handled Joe Louis fans after the Louis-Schmeling fight.

In Harlem, where 275,000 Negro men and women celebrated the fight, tolerant, kindly police, blocked off traffic on two of New York's busiest streets, Seventh and Lenox Avenues, stopped busses from running on those streets, permitted the celebration to run its course, and smiled while jubilant Negro boys and girls paraded, climbed on automobiles, and halted all travel along the uptown avenues.

When celebrants got out of hand they were gently reminded to refrain from doing property damage, but were otherwise unmolested except where an occasional disturbance required police intervention. Frequently, several stood around and refused to stop minor fights, permitting the merrymakers to enjoy themselves to the fullest. When the celebration had spent itself, racial relations in the big city were not the least bit disturbed.

EDITORIAL IN TRIBUNE

The accurate, conservative NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE commended the Negro citizens for their enthusiastic yet orderly celebration in an editorial in Thursday's paper.

The picture is much different in Roanoke. There, when a few hundred Roanoke citizens gathered on Henry Street to shout the praises of their hero, Joe Louis, armed police swooped down with tear gas bombs and machine guns, seriously injured several highly respected race citizens, caused several of the finest business establishments in the Negro section to be closed because of tear gas and succeeded in seriously disrupting race relations in the western Virginia city.

Belatedly, city officials met and decided that on subsequent occasions when the Negro people may have something to celebrate, that they be confined to a particular section of the city by ropes.

City Manager W. P. Hunter, and Major C. E. Heckman, chief of Police, met to consider suits brought by several local colored people against the police department as a result of the disturbance that occurred just after the fight on Wednesday night.

It was decided, after several had been injured by the bungling Roanoke police and after colored and white relations had suffered immeasurably, that in the future certain streets would be given over the celebrants as was done in New York City.

COPS LOOKING FOR TROUBLE

The colored citizens were represented by Attorney J. Henry Claytor in the preliminary hearing Friday, June 24. They charged that certain members of the local force had unlawfully interfered with their rights as citizens. It was observed by some that it seemed that the ofifcers were looking for trouble when they approached the crowd of race citizens.

The members of the committee that filed charges against the policement were: C. C. Williams, Dr. H. T. Penn, Dr. L. E. Paxton, E. P. Nabors, and L A. Lee. Local citizens hope that this action will end in successful law suits, after which the officers will be discharged.

The following persons testified that they were injured by the allegedly unlawful acts of the officers: Mrs. Bessie Coles, Mrs. Willie Johnson, C. T. Brown, Malcon White, and James H. Thomas, Jr., in addition to the Community Drug Store and The Virginia Theatre, both of which were forced to close their doors after tear gas spread through both places.

COPS BRING TROUBLE

Formal charges will be filed after the records containing all evidence have been completed.

Lt. M. B. Morris was identified as one of the officers seen walking down the street with tear gas bombs in his hands. Officer J. J. Field allegedly followed with a machine gun. Others named as participants in the incident were Lt. W. S. Newton, in charge of the police officers, and Patrolman Z. G. Huffman and N. M. McDaniel.

Local observers pointed out that no trouble occurred before the officers arrived. They said that the celebration had remained orderly until that time.